■ SPORTS / A34

Cavs, Spurs wrap up series

■ METRO / A26

Five arrested for stealing gas from former PNP chief Edgar Aglipay

■ WORLD / A29

CIA faces uncertainty after US spy agency chief quits abruptly

JOB Market

Over 1,000 job openings in Job Market today

Fidel Castro among world's richest rulers; Saudi is No. 1

NEW YORK—CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO was furious when Forbes magazine estimated his fortune at $550 million last year. This year, the magazine upped its estimate of the communist leader's wealth to a cool $900 million.

Castro, 79, who says his net worth is nil, is likely the beneficiary of up to $900 million, based on his control of state-owned companies, the United States financial magazine said in its annu-

FIDEL/ A8

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, May 7, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 148 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Recto U: Fake diplomas taint name of late senator

By Jerry E. Esplanada

GRADUATING FROM Recto University is as easy as 1-2-3.

Problem is, Recto U is not a real university. It's the derisive nickname of a cluster of establishments on C.M. Recto Avenue

NAY, MAY DIPLOMA NA AKO! PUMILI PA KAYO!

RECTO/ A19

'Let's go easy on Erap'

Aragoncillo plea does not mean Estrada et al. are guilty, says SolGen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Armand N. Nocum

AFTER THREE LEGAL SETbacks at the Supreme Court, two senior Malacañang advisers—Solicitor General Antonio Nachura and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita—want the Palace to go slow in filing a case against foes linked by a Filipino-American intelligence analyst to a supposed plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday sounded like he wanted to deliver a knockout blow as soon as possible.

Nachura said what former Federal Bureau of Investigation officer Leandro Aragoncillo had done in passing information to opposition leaders here might be inimical to US government interests, "but we must determine whether it is also inimical to our own laws."

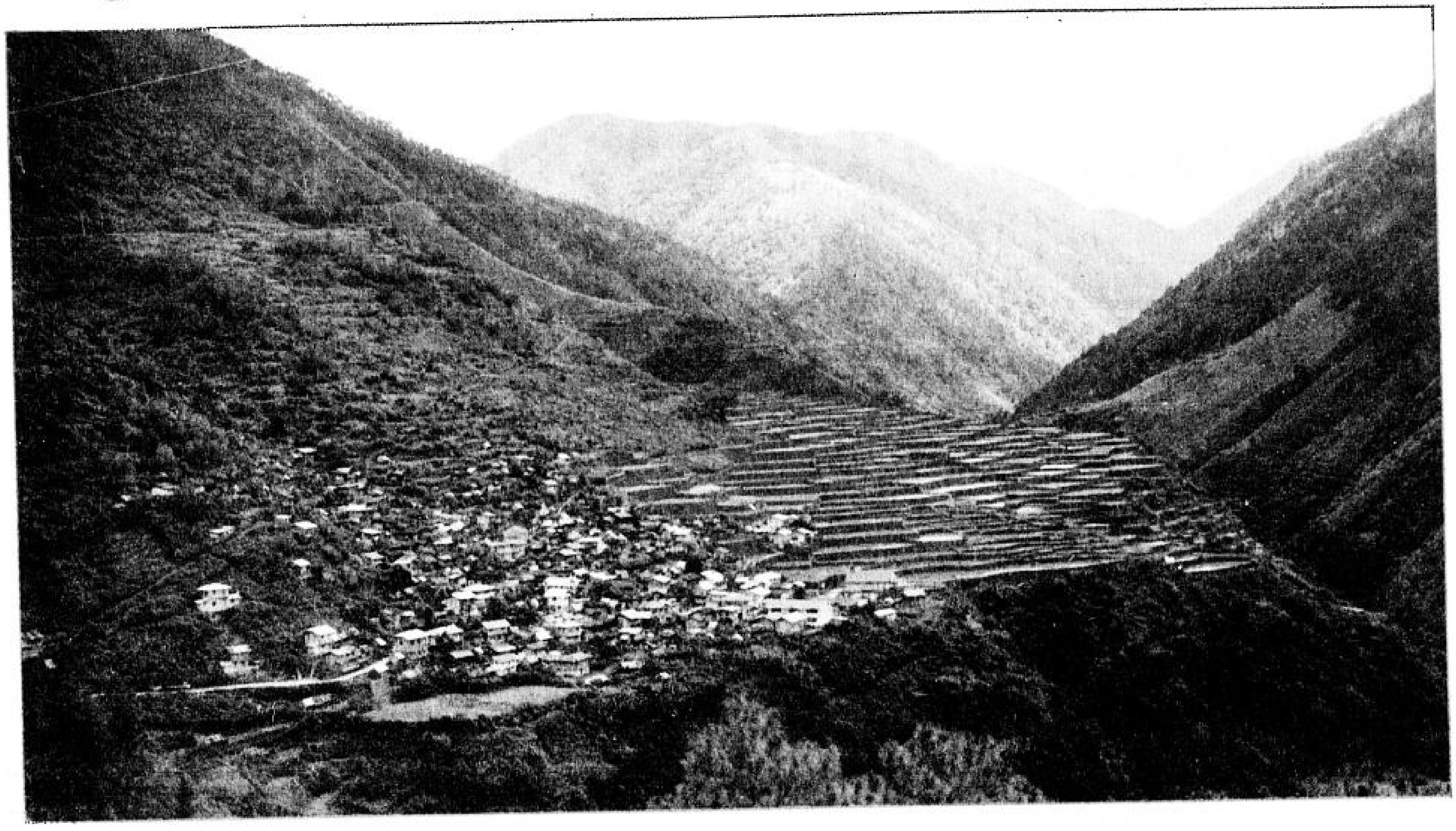
"There are perhaps different standards and different ways to look at this case," Nachura said in an interview.

Aragoncillo on Thursday pleaded guilty before a US District Court in New Jersey to using his access to White House and FBI computers to deliver secret information to Ms Arroyo's political opponents.

Documents filed in the US court named Aragoncillo's supposed co-conspirators as former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former House Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella. A US justice department official said another House member and a Metro Manila mayor were also allegedly involved.

Aragoncillo's testimony prompted Gonzalez and Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor to say that rebellion

LET'S/ A10



TERRACES VILLAGE
A village and age-old rice terraces compete for space on the slope of this Bontoc highland some 10 kilometers from Sagada of hanging coffins fame. The ancestors of the Ifugao built these terraces a few thousand years ago and they are are now maintained the traditional way by the residents of the village. BOY CABRIDO

Batasan 5's bold challenge: Come and get us

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF THEY ARE ARRESTED, IT WILL BE "politically bloody" for the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the five left-wing party-list lawmakers in the protective custody of the House of Representatives warned yesterday.

Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, and Liza Maza of Gabriela said at a press conference that they had decided to leave the Batasan complex tomorrow despite the police threat to arrest them.

The lawmakers now collectively known as the "Batasan 5" asserted that the government had no case against them after Makati Judge Jenny Lind Delorino rejected on Thursday an amended criminal complaint filed by the Department of Justice.

The complaint sought to include the Batasan 5, former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and 40 others in the rebellion case earlier filed against Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

They declared their innocence of the charge and said the government would first have to secure a warrant from the courts before the police could arrest them.

Ocampo said he and his colleagues would sue administration officials should the police insist on arresting them.

Said Casiño: "If we are arrested when we go out [tomorrow], it will not be violent. We will not resist, but it will be bloody, politically bloody, for the Arroyo regime.

"They will bleed in the courts. They will bleed at the bar of public opinion for their illegal and immoral act. They should first think about this."

Reading from the joint statement of

BATASAN/ A8

DEPARTING CHIEF
President Macapagal-Arroyo marches with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga at Villamor Air Base shortly before her departure for Macau yesterday. ***(Story on Page A2.)*** LYN RILLON

A FORMER LEPER'S STORY

Culion: Island of living dead no longer

By Volt Contreras

CULION, PALAWAN—THIS ISLAND-TOWN marked its centennial yesterday as a "leper colony," but it continues to nurse the hope that the dreaded disease would finally be stricken off public health statistics and, more importantly, the public psyche.

That hope is perhaps best expressed by one of the guests who showed up, a young woman who, despite being declared cured of leprosy in 2001, managed to find a regular job only six months ago.

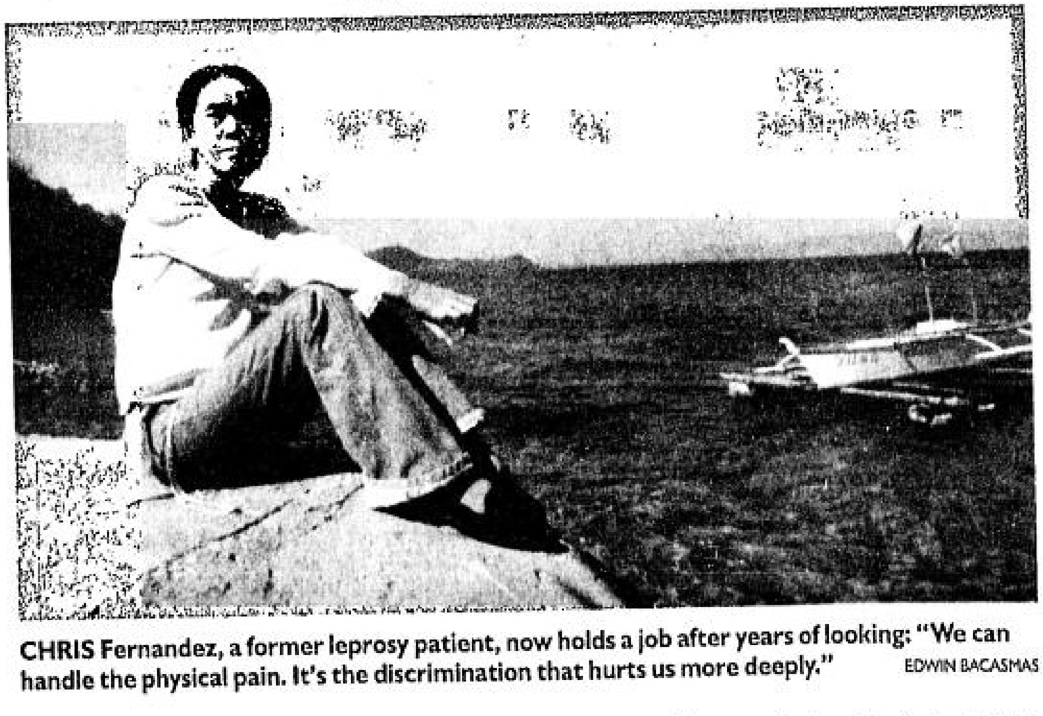
By her own account, the case of Chris Fernandez, 30, illustrates the plight of many Filipinos scourged by this ancient disease, one that Jesus Christ was said to have banished with miracles.

"We can handle the physical pain," she told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "It's the discrimination owing to the lack of understanding about the nature of the disease that hurts us more deeply."

Chris said the first symptoms appeared when she was a sixth-grader in Tacloban City: White spots on her hands and cheeks that turned reddish whenever she got tired.

Coming from a poor family with meager means for medical care, she endured these recurring symptoms until she was in college in Manila.

By the time she was diagnosed with leprosy, her face and hands had become slightly disfigured. She was then in her sophomore year in accounting and bookkeeping at the National College of Business Administration in Sta. Mesa.



CHRIS Fernandez, a former leprosy patient, now holds a job after years of looking: "We can handle the physical pain. It's the discrimination that hurts us more deeply." EDWIN BACASMAS

Her guardian in Manila, a friend of her mother's, sent her back to Tacloban. She ended up at the Eversley Childs Sanitarium in Mandaue City, Cebu, where she was treated for two years from 1996 to 1997.

Chris would have a "relapse" in 1999 but was pronounced cured a year later.

Since her discharge from the sanitarium, she has been living alone in a rented room in Sitio Sta. Cruz, Barangay Jaguibio, Mandaue City.

At one point, a nongovernment organization, the Philippine Leprosy Mission Inc. (PLMI) granted her a scholarship that enabled her to earn a degree in elementary education at the University of the Visayas.

Armed with a diploma, she went job-hunting in Cebu—only to realize that her hardships, even as an ex-PWL (person with leprosy), had merely entered a new chapter.

"I applied for many jobs—store cashier, saleswoman, call center agent, office staff. I would always pass the written exams," Chris said. "But it's during the interview that they would begin to ask questions about the scars

CULION/ A12

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KAREN TOMAS, PDI RESEARCH/04/07/05

Second **FRONTPAGE**

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

3 railway execs charged with plunder

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYStem (GSIS) yesterday filed plunder charges against three top officials of the Philippine National Railways Corp. with the Ombudsman for allegedly failing to remit their employees' GSIS contributions in the amount of P132 million.

Charged were PNR general manager Jose Ma. I. Sarasola II, assistant general manager Rafael F. Mosura and finance department head Lynn A. Chung.

GSIS chief legal counsel Leighton Siazon filed the complaint against the PNRC officials with the Ombudsman.

The PNRC officials could be held liable for plunder, large-scale estafa, grave misconduct, dishonesty, oppression of PNR workers, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of service and gross neglect of duty, the GSIS said in a statement.

"With obvious unfaithfulness, abuse of confidence and deceitful conduct, the officials misappropriated, misapplied and/or converted the amount they collected and deducted, to the damage and prejudice of the GSIS and its members," the GSIS said.

Economic sabotage

The GSIS said the violations amounted to economic sabotage because these threatened the actual solvency of the GSIS funds, and "eroded the confidence" of its millions of members and the public.

In the complaint, Siazon charged that the PNRC officials deducted and collected their workers' contributions to GSIS from their salaries amounting to P132,164,305, but failed to remit these to the state pension fund.

Siazon said that failure to remit the contributions violated the GSIS Act of 1997.

To back its complaint, the GSIS furnished Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez with a statement of collectibles from the PNRC, a certification showing that the contributions of PNR employees had been deducted, and copies of GSIS demand letters and notices to the PNRC since 2003.

"The failure and refusal (by PNRC) to remit the personal share of (its) employees gravely affected GSIS operations and the performance and effective exercise of its functions, including the dispensation of benefits to its employees and millions of members," the GSIS said in its complaint.

Subpoena documents

Siazon also requested the Ombudsman to subpoena documents such as payroll records, Commission on Audit observation reports, financial statements and individual employee accounts ledgers.

These documents would prove that PNR officials and personnel "connived to accumulate, amass and acquire" over P50 million in GSIS funds in violation of the plunder law, Siazon said.

The GSIS also urged the Ombudsman to issue a preventive suspension order against the PNRC officials pending the conduct of administrative proceedings against them.

The suspension would preempt the tampering of officials records, documents and other evidence and stop PNRC officials and personnel from "exerting undue influence, coercion and threat" against employees who might turn witnesses, it said.

Oil on top of GMA agenda in Saudi Arabia

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL EXplore ways to soften the impact of rising crude oil prices on the Filipino people in her talks with top officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the country's main source of oil.

"We still don't know the possible arrangements that can be agreed on, whether this will be on supply or the price," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said.

Defensor said that a possibility would be to course Saudi Arabia's support through Saudi Aramco which also owns Petron Corp., the country's biggest petroleum company, in partnership with the Philippine government.

"She might explore the links between Saudi Aramco and Petron to make special arrangements to ease the impact of oil prices on the public," Defensor said. Ms Arroyo is expected to tour the facilities of Aramco during her visit.

In her departure statement yesterday, before leaving for Macau and thence for Saudi Arabia, President Arroyo said: "I have high hopes for the future of our relations and I hope that my visit to Saudi Arabia will further strengthen our ties, reinforce commitments, as well as open new avenues for cooperation and engagement."

The President has encouraged Petron and other oil suppliers to sell discounted diesel in more gasoline stations outside Metro Manila to benefit more public utility drivers.

For the second time this month, oil firms yesterday raised pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. raised prices Saturday morning, followed by new player Flying V at 12:01 a.m. today.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. increased prices at 5 a.m., followed by Petron Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. an hour later.

The oil firms cited the increase in international oil prices for the latest price hike.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that Dubai crude jumped to an average of $68.23 a barrel as of May 3 from $64.14 a barrel in April.

Hacienda Luisita farmers want individual land titles

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AN ORganization of more than 1,000 farm workers at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac is urging the Department of Agrarian Reform to issue them individual titles when the agency begins to parcel out the sugar estate to them in June.

Noel Mallari, chair of the Farm Workers Agrarian Reform Movement (Farm), said members from Barangays Mabilog, Parang and Pando in the Concepcion town side of the estate preferred individual land titles because this was the spirit of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

For effective control

"We want effective control over the land and to have individual management of it so that we could really be productive," Mallari said.

Titling the property to an organization, he said, would not do away with the previous arrangement where the Hacienda Luisita Inc. represented them in a stock distribution option mechanism that the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council revoked late last year.

The SDO scheme lasted for 16 years, with farm workers claiming they did not benefit from this form of agrarian reform.

To secure individual land ownership, Mallari said the DAR should annotate the names of the final beneficiaries at the back of the Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs), assign them farm lots and position them there.

'Spurious list'

The selection of beneficiaries should not be based on the SDO master list which, he said, was spurious.

"We hope the DAR would stick to the qualifications stated in the law (Section 22 of Republic Act No. 6657, the CARP law)," he said.

Mallari said his organization expected the DAR to help beyond land distribution by assisting the beneficiaries in obtaining training in management and technology as well as production capital. The group intends to continue growing sugar alongside other cash crops and raising livestock and poultry, he said.

Collectively owned

DAR Regional Director Teofilo Inocencio said the Cojuangco family-owned Hacienda Luisita would be collectively owned through CLOAs and maintained in large parcels.

DAR records showed that the estate totaled 5,938 hectares. Of these, at least 4,874 hectares were eligible for CARP. Titles for another 1,025 hectares had been cancelled for conversion to industrial use. At least 38 hectares were used for roads and canals.

Mallari has asked the DAR to stop pitting his organization against the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu), saying their members were farm workers who could qualify for CARP. Rene Galang, Ulwu chair, disagreed with the DAR's mode of distributing the land in batches.

No to partial distribution

"The distribution should not be done partially. The whole of Luisita should be given to the beneficiaries," Galang said in a separate interview.

Ulwu, he said, wanted to own the land collectively so its long-term ownership would be assured.

"Individual ownership is difficult because some beneficiaries may sell their parcels. We would like to cultivate the land in a bayanihan (community cooperation) way," he said.

He said the Ulwu and the DAR would finalize the list of beneficiaries of the land distribution. *With a report from Jo Martinez-Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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or

Ministry Of Education
School Placement & Scholarships Branch
Scholarships Section,
3rd Level, Podium Block
1 North Buona Vista Drive
Singapore 138675

More information on the scholarship and request for application forms can be obtained through our website at:
http://www.moe.gov.sg/aseanscholarships/

Request for application forms by post from the Singapore Embassy must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope (at least 16cm by 23cm). The envelopes should be marked 'ASEAN Scholarships for the Philippines' at the top left-hand corner.

Closing Date

Completed application forms, together with relevant supporting documents, must reach the Singapore Ministry of Education by June 9, 2006

THERE IS NO BOND ATTACHED TO THE SCHOLARSHIP

We regret that incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be entertained.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit for a selection test in July and attend an interview in August 2006. Successful candidates will arrive in Singapore in early November to attend a Mathematics bridging course before joining Singapore schools in January 2007.

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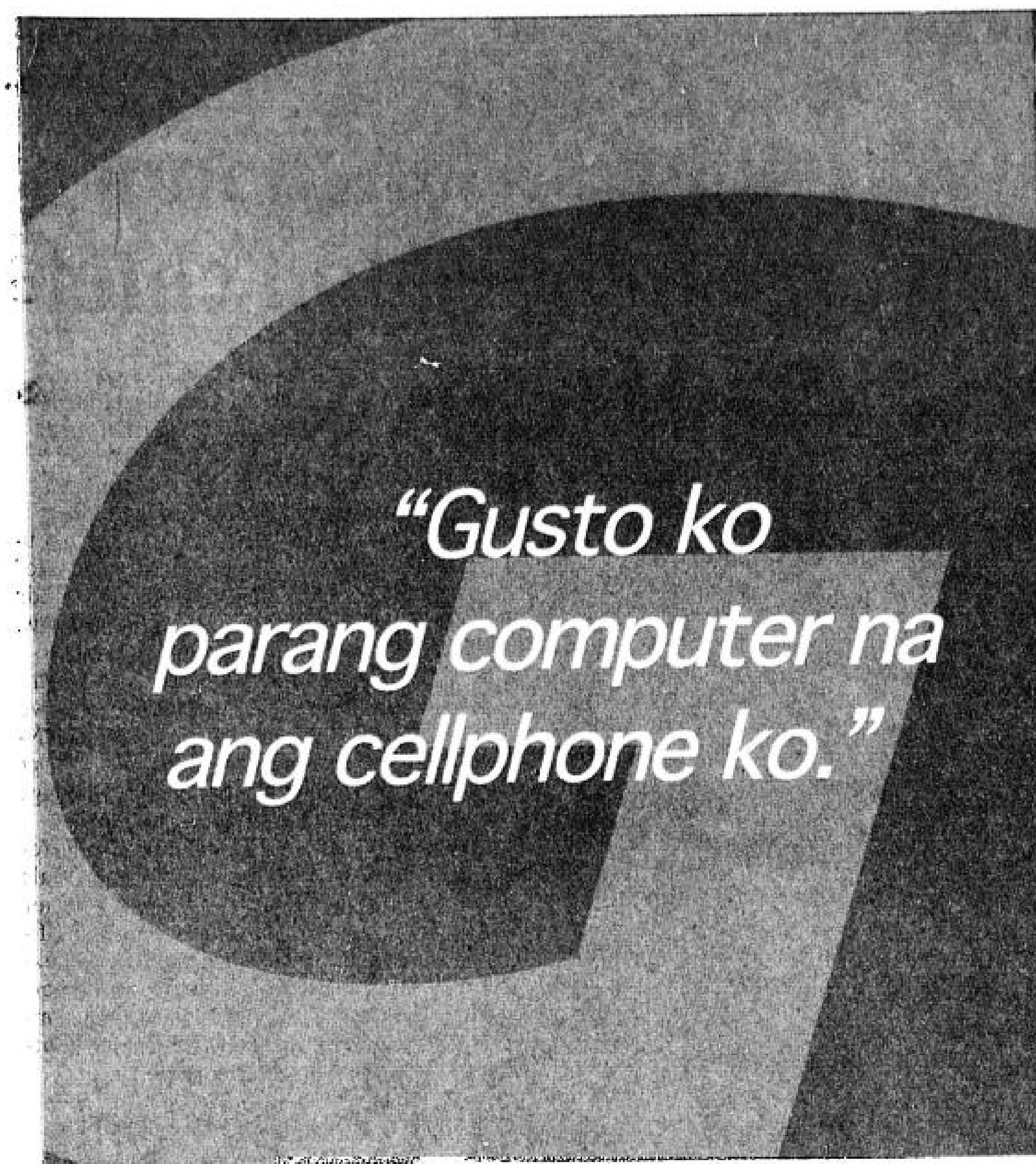
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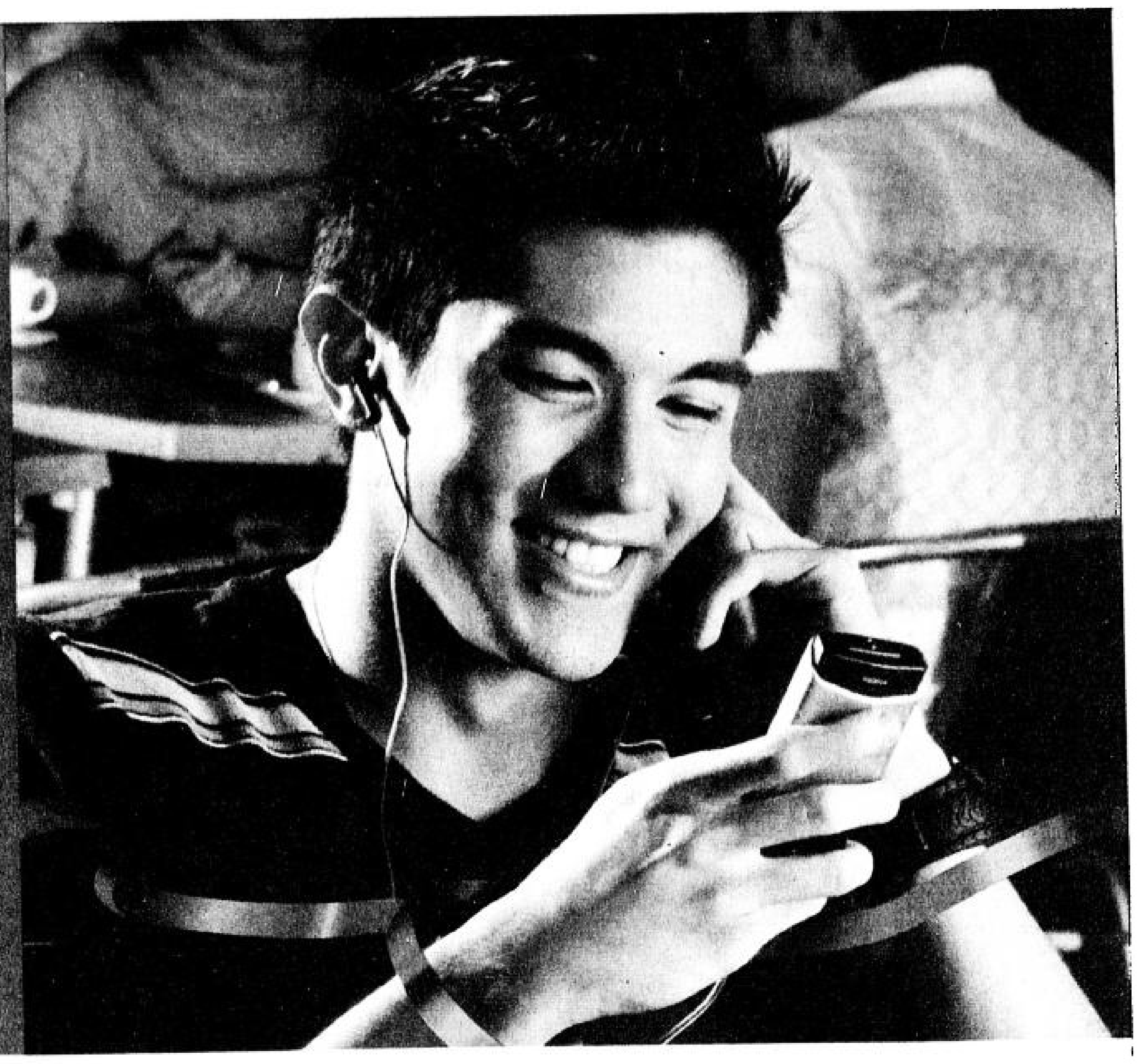

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1086, Series of 2006.

GMA names Fianza new racing commission chief

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS SET TO announce the appointment of former police Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza as head of the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) following the dismissal of its former chief on corruption charges.

This was confirmed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor amid speculation that the ouster of former Philracom chair Jaime Dilag and National Dairy Authority administrator Salvacion M. Bulatao were politically motivated.

Dilag was recommended to Philracom in 2002 by Jose "Peping" Cojuangco who was linked by a Time magazine report to the failed Feb. 24 coup plot against President Arroyo which was reportedly hatched in his Forbes Park mansion.

Bulatao is the wife of Gerry Bulatao, a convenor of the Black and White Movement which is actively seeking President Arroyo's resignation.

Three Philracom board members—Eduardo Jose, Rogelio Tandiama and Reynaldo Fernando—have tendered their resignations in protest of his dismissal, Dilag said.

Dilag said the Philippine Anti-Graft Commission, which recommended his dismissal for alleged malversation of funds, should have tossed the case against him to the Ombudsman.

The PAGC charged Dilag with misappropriating funds corresponding to the prizes in Philracom-sponsored races, non-remittance of unclaimed dividends and hiring a public relations firm without a public bidding.

"I would not have lasted this long in my position if I was doing what they accused me of," said Dilag.

In the case of Bulatao, the former NDA head disputed the findings of the PAGC which accused her of hiring a foreign consultant and a multinational ad agency without public bidding.

She said she rushed the hiring of a foreign consultant in 2001 because she was still new in the job and she had heeded the advice of industry old-timers. Bulatao also said that McCann Erickson's services were free.

"I sincerely believe the punitive measures imposed on me and the adverse publicity of my dismissal are unfair," said Bulatao, who had occupied the post since 2001. "I have been accused not of stealing even a single centavo but of ignoring bidding procedures twice."

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ALCAZAR, Michael Rainier L.
ALONZO, Christiane B.
AQUINO , Grace Lynn L.
ASILO, Azela O.
BOLANTE, Dolly Rose R.
BUSMENTE, Allan D.
CABRERA IV, Stanley Anthony V.
CALIMARAN-SORIANO, Leizl L.
CARLOS, Maria Cristina F.
CAYUNDA JR., Florante A.
CERENO, Conrad P.
CERVANTES, Alexis M.
CHUA, Clifford E.
CLEMENTE Norby P.
CONSTANTINO, Maria Cristina C.
CRUZ, Anna Theresa C.
DAGUMAN, Imee M.
DE GUZMAN, Ysabel Demetria A.
DE LOS SANTOS III, Ricardo C.
DIAZ, Kristine Joy R.
EUSEBIO, Ma. Arabella G.
FAUSTINO, Maria Kristina F.
GAINZA, Janalyn B.
GARCIA, Maria Cristina B.
GOBOY, Anne Sharlyne M.
GREGORIO, Ma Rhea M.
GUERRERO, Maria Cecilia H.
GUIEB, Khan Francis C.
IGNACIO-GUTIERREZ, Iris S.
JOSE, Ismael M.
JOSE, Lizzette S.
KALAW, Ritchie Evans L.
KWONG, Melissa R.
LIM, John Anthony L.
LIM, Paul Lawrence S.
LINDO, Sherwin Marc A.
MANAOG, Joy Z.
MARIMLA, Almario D.
MENDOZA, Raymund Joseph Ian O.
MONTES, Jeanne Rouselda T.
MONZON, Braniel Iluminado T.
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RIVERA, Bruce V.
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SANCHEZ, Norina Aileen C.
SANTOS, Ma. Rhea M.
SERASPI, Butch B.
SIMBAHAN, Rowena M.
SOLENG JR., Eduardo V.
SUAN, Maria Laureen D.
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SBC Passing Percentage - 83.57%
NATIONAL PASSING PERCENTAGE - 27.2%

San Beda College (SBC) will hold a Thanksgiving Mass on May 8, 2006, 6:30 p.m.
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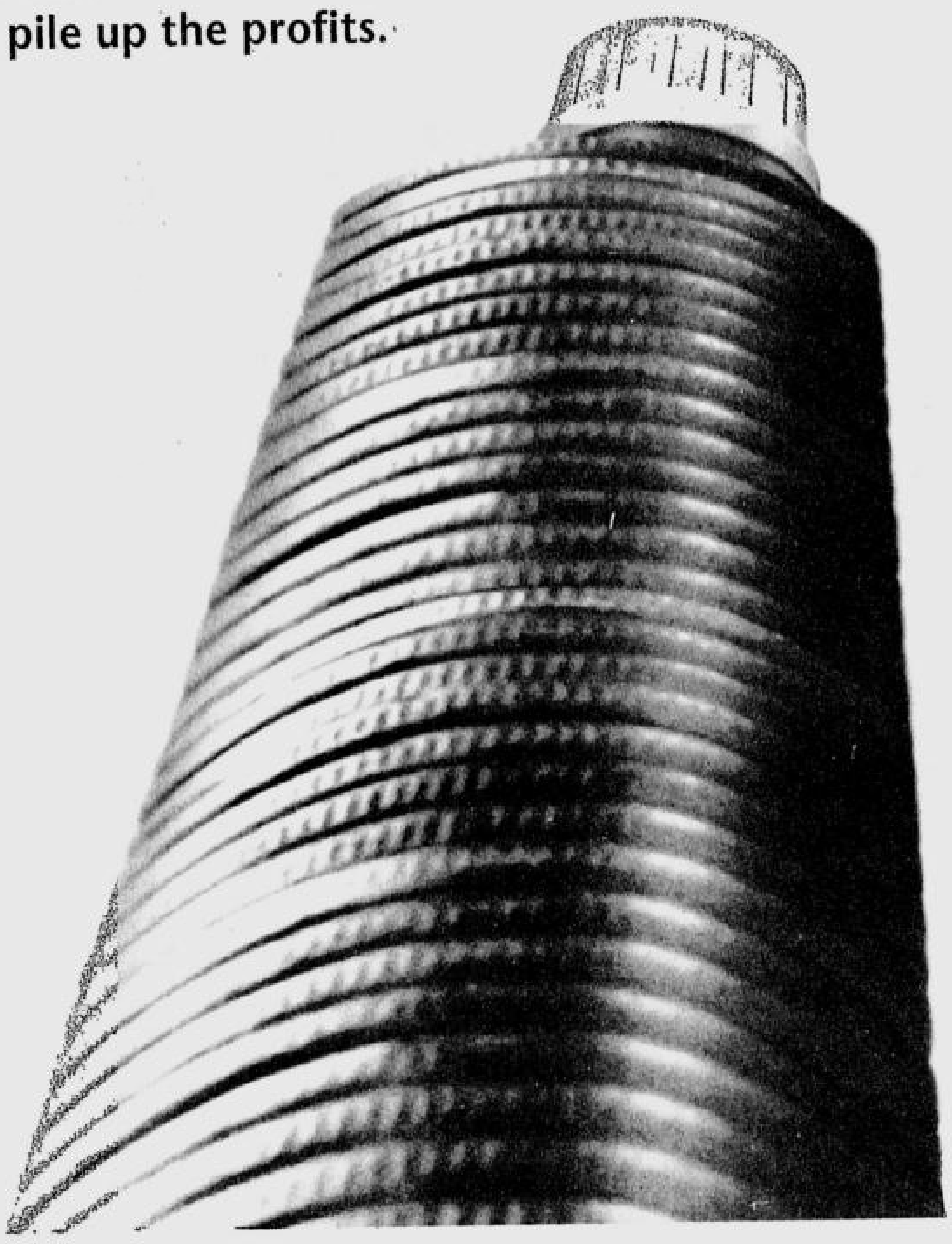

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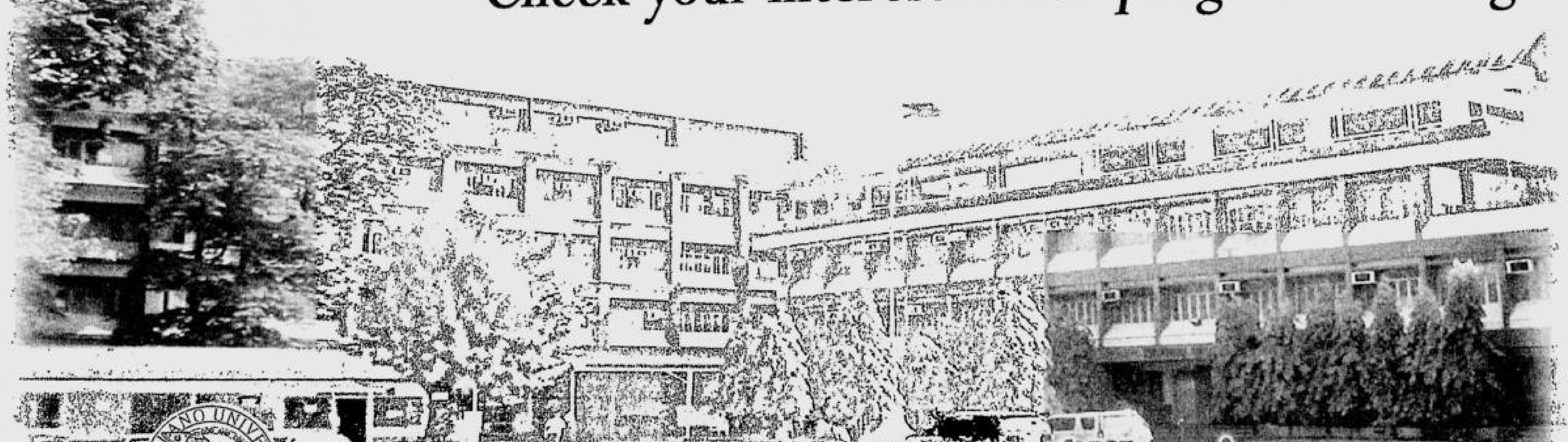

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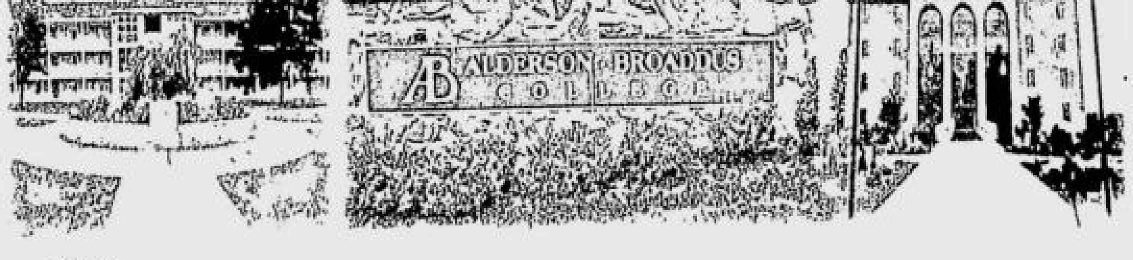

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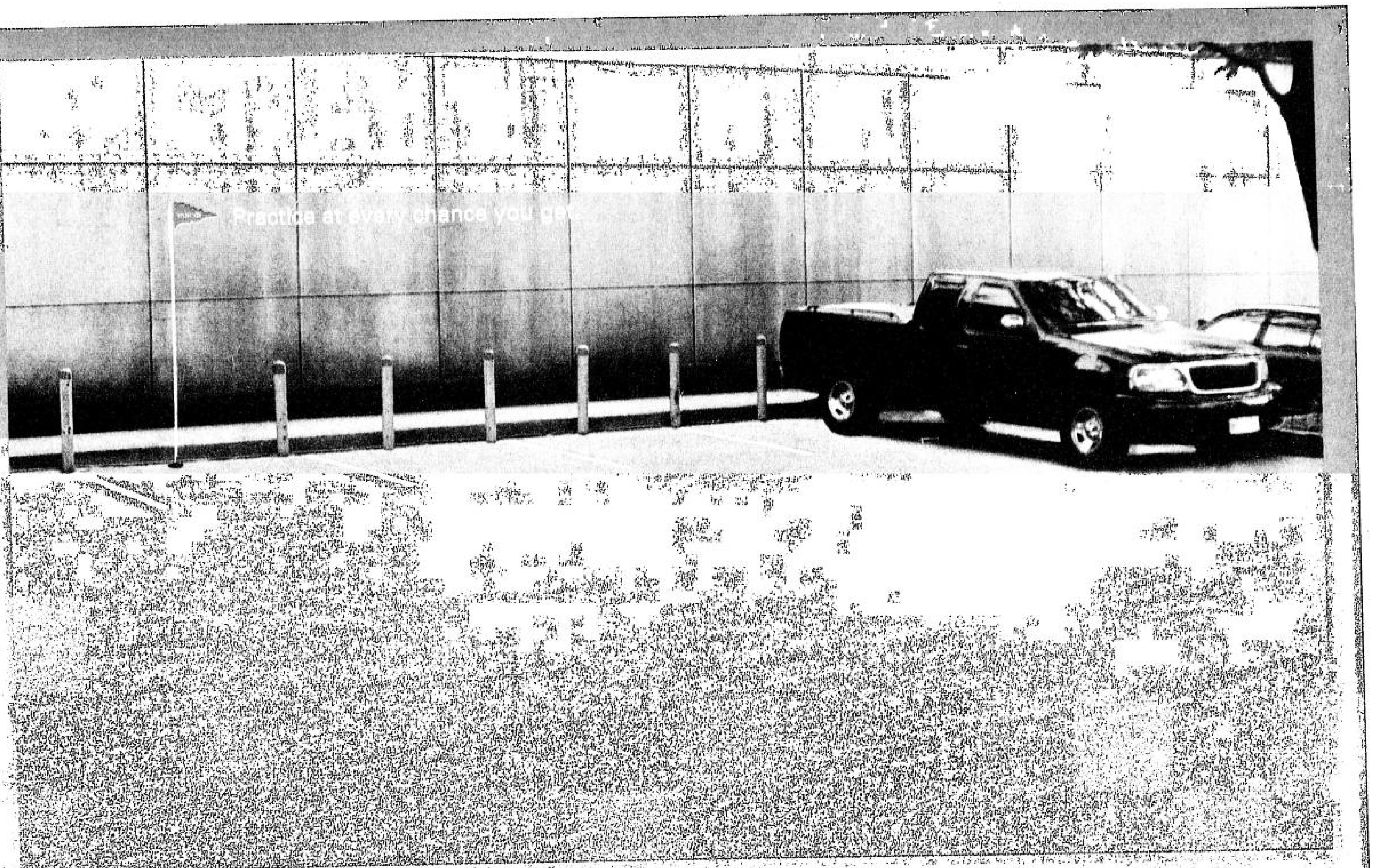

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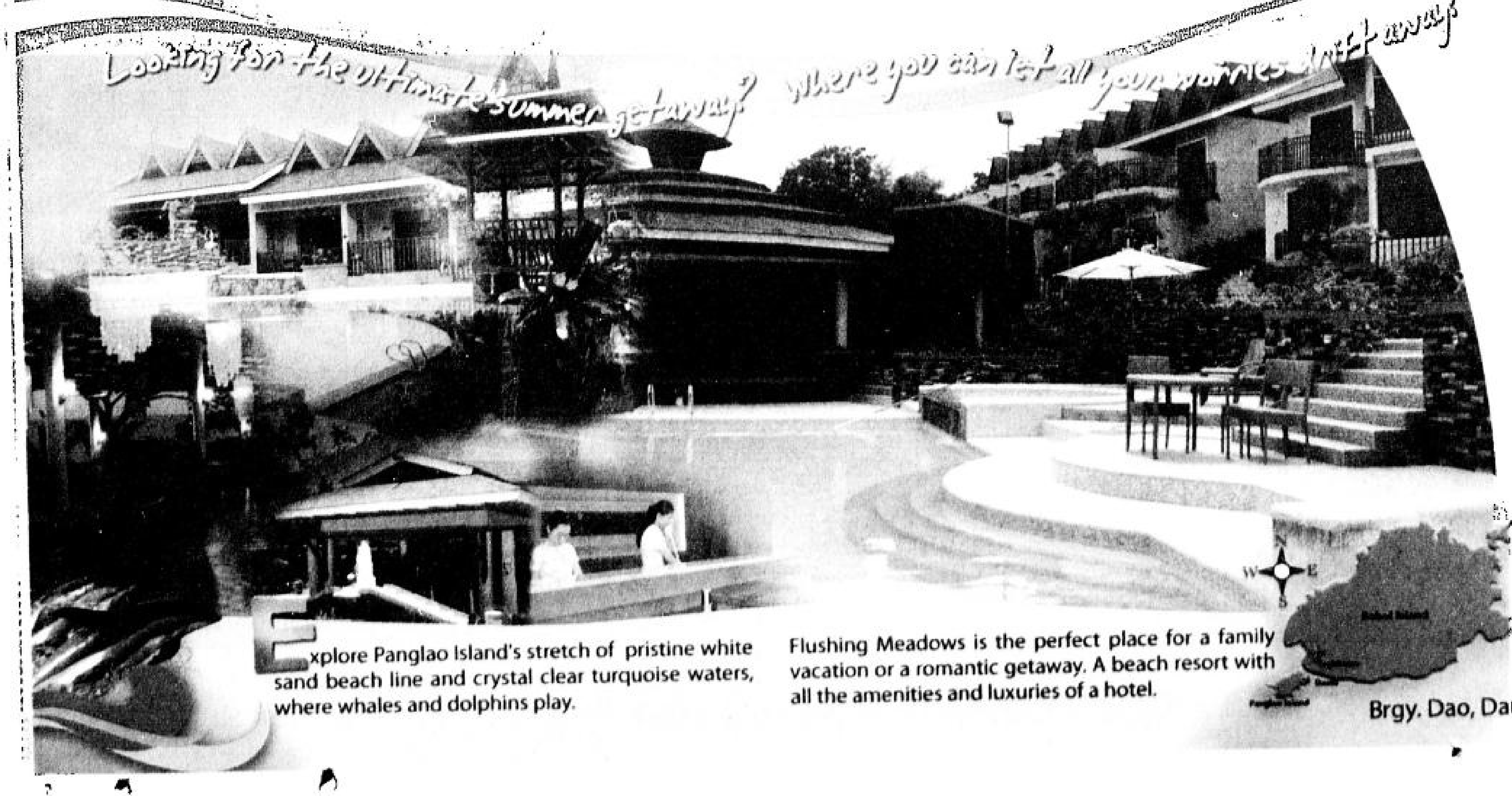
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Erap gets 2-wk trial respite

By Norman Bordadora

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS postponed two scheduled hearings in former President Joseph Estrada's trial, giving the deposed leader two weeks to prepare for the last part of his direct testimony and get ready for cross-examination by state prosecutors eager to nail him on plunder and perjury charges.

The court called off hearings scheduled for Wednesday and May 17 because two of its three judges—Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta—will be in Cebu City from May 10 to May 17 for regular out-of-town hearings of the antigraft court's First Division.

De Castro, Peralta and Associate Justice Francisco Villaruz compose the Sandiganbayan's Special Division trying Estrada. De Castro and Peralta are concurrent members of the First Division.

ESTRADA

Aside from the justice's hearings in Cebu, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio is also scheduled to attend a lawyer's conference abroad this week.

One of Estrada's lawyers, Jose Flaminiano, welcomed the postponement, saying the former President could use a little more rest following his recent confinement for vomiting and diarrhea at the San Juan Medical Center. Estrada was allowed to attend the 101st birthday celebration of his mother, Mary Ejercito, and was taken ill after the party.

Flaminiano said he would try to finish his direct examination of Estrada when the trial resumes on May 24.

"We will try our best to finish the direct examination of President Estrada then so that in the succeeding hearing we would be ready for his cross-examination by the prosecution," he said.

On the other hand, Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution panel still had to decide whether to cross-examine Estrada or not.

"We will see if there is still a need to cross-examine because all he has told the court was that he didn't know anything about the allegations against him," Villa-Ignacio told reporters following the cancellation of last Friday's hearing.

Last week's scheduled hearing was moved from Wednesday to Friday in light of the birthday party, but that hearing was eventually cancelled after Estrada took sick.

Jinggoy replies to libel suit filed by First Gentleman

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HE WAS JUST DOING HIS JOB.

This was what Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said in reply to the P10-million libel suit slapped on him by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in March for linking the President's husband to big-time smuggling.

Estrada, accompanied by lawyers Noel Malaya and Margarita Briones, filed a nine-page counter-affidavit with assistant prosecutor Manuel Ortega of Pasay City at 3 p.m. Friday. The document asked for the dismissal of the suit, saying it had no basis and failed to establish that a crime had been committed against Arroyo.

"It is plain and purely a political harassment," Estrada told reporters.

Estrada said his statements linking Arroyo to resin importer Sammy Lee and Pure Gold Duty Free Shop owner Lucio Co, both allegedly notorious smugglers, were made in the performance of his legal, moral and social duties and were made without any malice.

The allegedly libelous statements were made by Estrada during a privilege speech as well as in a news conference.

"It is clear that my statements were simply an expression of hope, coupled with a challenge to the executive branch of the present government to swiftly and effectively act on the proliferation of smugglers despite surmounting difficulties," he stated in his counter-affidavit.

He said the allegedly libelous statements attributed to him were based on privilege speeches made by other senators during their deliberations on the 2006 budget and anti-smuggling bills.

"My statements were nothing but a fair and true account of what transpired during the session and deliberations," he said. His statements were logical conclusions drawn from "credible reports" and speeches by his colleagues, he added.

He told reporters that the libel charge against him won't stop him from doing his duty as a senator.

"I will still do my responsibilities as a senator of the republic. I will expose all the countless anomalies under the present government," he said.

Arroyo's lawyer, Melanie Trinidad, who was also present at the prosecutor's office, said she would file a reply to Estrada's counter-affidavit on May 23.

F. Villaroman, broker; 64

VETERAN MAKATI STOCKBROKER Francisco "Franky" Villaroman, 64, died on Wednesday due to heart failure.

Villaroman, chair and president of Securities Specialists Inc., was known as the father of computerization at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) where in 1993 he helped transform the old Makati and Manila bourses from manual to automated trading.

He was one of the pioneers of the old Makati Stock Exchange in the 1970s.

At the forefront of information technology reforms, Villaroman helped map out the PSE's settlement and clearing system and put a registry system in place.

"Franky had no agenda and he genuinely loved the PSE. He was a good man," said Makati broker and close friend Vivian Yuchengco.

Villaroman's remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati City. A funeral Mass is scheduled on May 10 at 2 p.m. at the chapel. Cremation will follow at 4 p.m.

Villaroman was a PSE director since March 2004. He was chair and president of Philippine Holding Inc., PH Credit Corporation and PH Commercial Corp. He was also a director of the Philippine Association of Securities Brokers and Dealers Inc. and a member of the PSE legislative committee, where he contributed to proposals on the Securities Regulation Code, documentary stamp tax law, pension and early retirement act, and other laws.

He was the PSE's corporate secretary in 2002-03 when he helped finalize details on the deed of donation for the PSE's new headquarters at Fort Bonifacio. He also authored the board of director's rule book. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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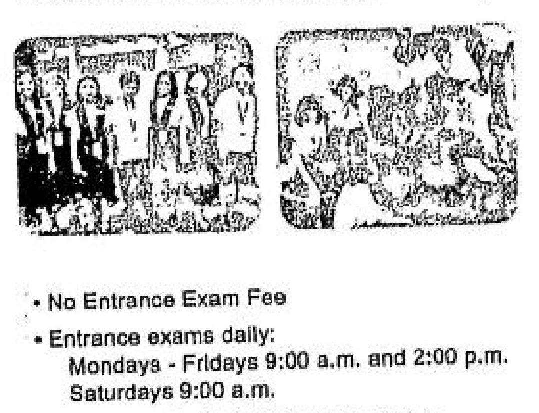

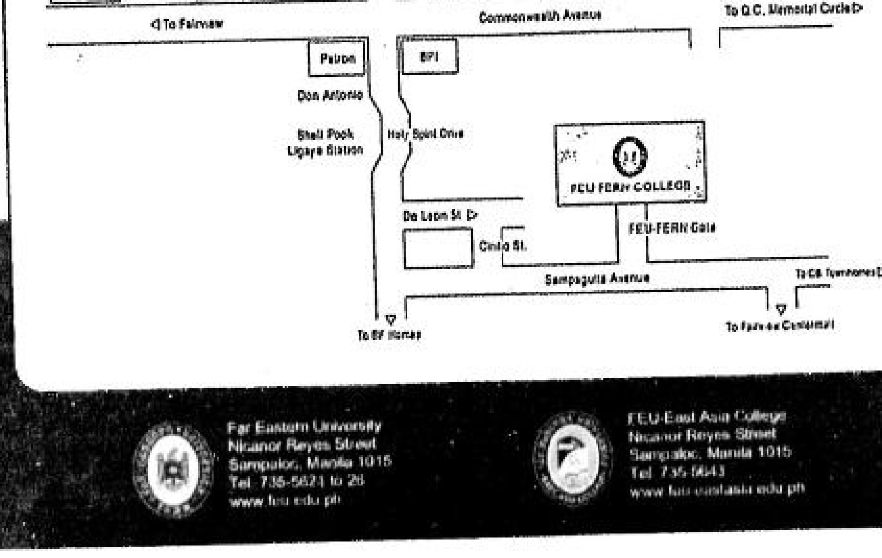

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KING JAMES
AUCTION CALENDAR

AUCTION TODAY
SITE: 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO.CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: MAY 7, 2006 (SUN) @ 10:30 AM
CONSISTING OF COMPUTERS, S/T AIRCON, W/T AIRCON, OFFICE PARTITIONS, OFFICE TABLES, SWIVEL CHAIRS, FILING CABINETS, COMPUTER TABLES, ASSTD. CLOTHES, HOUSEWARES, KITCHENWARES, BED W/ MATRESS, 50 INDUCTION MOTORS, BALE MACHINES (1 TON & 200 KILOS CAP.), S/S HI TEMP DYEING MACHINE, KNITTING MACHINE, VENDO MACHINE, CERAMIC SINK, AND MANY MORE...
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P5,000

2 DAYS AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 8-9, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
SITE: KING JAMES AUCTION PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS
777 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO.CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: MAY 10-11, 2006 (WED & THU) @ 10:30 AM
UNDER THE INSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR BUS MANUFACTURING COMPANY (95% BRAND NEW)
CONSISTING OF BUS/TRUCK ENGINE, BUS/TRUCK SPARE PARTS: ALTERNATOR, STARTER, FUEL TANK, LEAF SPRING, PROPELLER SHAFT ASSEMBLY, BRAKE LINING, TUBULAR, FUEL TANK, OIL PUMP, OIL FILTER ELEMENT, OIL PUMP ASSEMBLY, AIR COMPRESSOR PULLEY, TURBO CHARGER, SHOCK ABSORBER, HUB BEARING OUTER, RADIATOR, MAIN SHAFT FLANGE, SIGNAL LIGHTS, HEADLIGHTS, FUEL FILTERS AND MANY MORE...
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P20,000

QUEZON CITY WAREHOUSE AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 10-11, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
SITE: 1281 G. ARANETA AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
AUCTION DATE: MAY 12, 2006 (FRI) @ 10:30 AM
BANK FURNITURES, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT
CONSISTING OF OFFICE TABLES, OFFICE PARTITIONS, SWIVEL CHAIRS, FILING CABINETS, VAULT DOORS, CLEANING MATERIALS & CHEMICALS, HOLLOW DOORS, CERAMIC SINKS, AND MANY MORE...
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Fidel Castro among world's richest rulers; Saudi is No. 1

From page A1

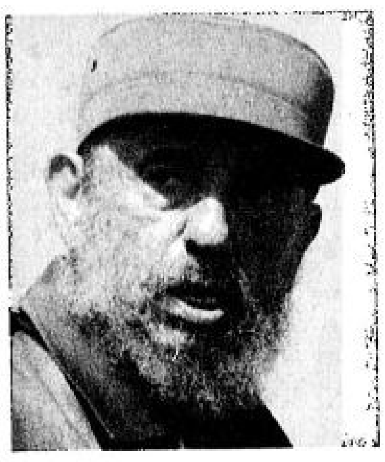
al tally of "Kings, Queens & Dictators" fortunes on Thursday.

Kings and sheikhs of the oil-rich Gulf Arab states still top the Forbes list, to be published in its May 22 edition.

The list is topped by Saudi King Abdullah, 82, who became Saudi Arabia's sixth king in August 2005 and is worth an estimated $21 billion, according to Forbes.

In second place, with $20 billion, is 59-year-old Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, followed by the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan, 58, with $19 billion.

Dubai's ruler, 56-year-old Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, came in fourth, with $14 billion. Perhaps the most industrious of the leaders, Forbes estimates the renowned racehorse breeder also helped raise Dubai's gross domestic product from about $8 billion to nearly $40 billion since 1994 by diversifying its industries outside of oil and making successful investments overseas.



CASTRO

KING ABDULLAH

SULTAN BOLKIAH

"He would probably be the shrewdest of the bunch," said Luisa Kroll, associate editor at Forbes.

Fifth in the list is Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein, 61, who improved upon his family fortune of palaces, real estate and artwork with an investment in a US producer of hybrid rice, for total estimated riches of $4 billion.

The new Monegasque ruler, Albert, 48, who took over rule of the tiny principality after his father's death last year, was in sixth place, with $1 billion.

Castro came in seventh, with the $900 million credited to him by Forbes, which cited former Cuban officials as saying that Castro had skimmed profits from a Havana convention center, retail conglomerate Cimex and vaccine and pharmaceutical products firm Medicuba to amass his fortune.

It noted, however, that "Castro, for the record, disagrees, insisting his personal net worth is zero."

Castro had said he was considering suing after Forbes released its 2005 list, scoffing then at the report that his wealth was estimated to be close to that of the queen of England. This year, Castro would be well above the British monarch.

"Do they think I am (former Zairian President) Mobutu (Sese Seko) or one of the many millionaires, those thieves and plunderers that the empire has suckled and protected?" he said last year, referring to his capitalist archenemy, Washington.

Africa's Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, 63-year-old president of Equatorial Guinea, made the list of wealthiest leaders for the first time. He is estimated to hold up to $600 million, the magazine said, although an oil boom has not prevented his country's slide down the United Nations' development rankings.

Forbes said Obiang and his government deposited up to $700 million in the US bank formerly known as Riggs Bank but noted that "Equatorial Guinea's embassy insists the money, which was released back to the country, belongs to the government."

"Attributing that money to President Obiang's personal wealth is like saying a person who runs a hospital is worth the amount of revenue the hospital generates," an embassy spokesperson told Forbes in an e-mail.

Obiang is followed by Britain's 80-year-old queen, Elizabeth, who is worth $500 million—not including Buckingham Palace, the crown jewels and some other heirlooms that "belong to the British nation" and are merely "entrusted to her care."

Rounding out the list is the Netherlands' Queen Beatrix, 68, who has $270 million to her name.

A copy of the list, compiled by Forbes editors and not confirmed by the royals themselves, was released on Thursday.

Forbes acknowledged that the list was difficult to compile.

"These fortunes are derived from inheritances or positions of power. And the lines often blur between what is owned by the country and what is owned by the individual," it said.

"Even stickier: Proving a dictator controls funds and uses them for personal gain—not for the country's benefit," Forbes said.

"People are always intrigued. What is the ultimate fantasy but being a rich princess or prince?" said Kroll, who edits the magazine's annual list of global billionaires.

"We keep it separate from the billionaires because there are some very tricky things about these folks," Kroll said.

"It's very hard to separate state from personal wealth. Some of these fortunes literally go back 800 years." *Reuters, AFP*

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Batasan 5's . . .

From page A1

the group, Ocampo said he and his colleagues had "come to a decision" to leave the Batasan premises tomorrow.

"We shall assert our freedom and our rights, both as legislators backed by the mandate of the people and as citizens, specifically against the political persecution of the Arroyo government," Ocampo said.

"In the same breath, we assert our innocence of the spurious charge of rebellion against us and some of our colleagues in the democratic mass movement. The serious charge is rendered so incredible and ridiculous by the sort of documentary evidence produced pell-mell by the Philippine National Police and endorsed by the [DOJ]," he said.

Mariano said the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group could not arrest them just because the DOJ had said so.

"The so-called standing order from the [DOJ] is not a valid warrant of arrest. It would be unlawful, irregular and highly condemnable if the PNP-CIDG will arrest us once we assert our rights and freedom [tomorrow]," he said.

He also said it would be "politically costly for the fascist Arroyo regime to forcefully and brutally arrest us.

"Ms Arroyo will surely draw a major political backlash not only from our constituencies but [also] from the Filipino people," he added.

'Insufficient evidence'

Citing Judge Delorino's resolution, Ocampo noted that the "numerous enclosures to the original information"—392 documents in all—"could hardly cover the width and breadth of the detailed allegation raised."

"In brief, insufficient evidence," he said, adding:

"Thus, as of this moment there is no case of rebellion against us filed in any court.

"Even if the DOJ will file a motion for reconsideration or a new information, as it publicly declared it would do, such charge cannot depart from the discredited heap of papers it had submitted to the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 137."

Ocampo said he and his colleagues had endured living in Congress for more than two months after the House leadership and the executive branch failed to agree on how to resolve their case.

"On the one hand, through House Resolution No. 133, the House backed by the Senate through a similar resolution expressing the sense of Congress, the lawmaking body, aver we are not under arrest or detention but under protective custody, specifically, against illegal or warrantless arrest.

"On the other hand, the DOJ and the PNP, both implementing agencies of laws passed by Congress, claim we either have been arrested and are in detention or will be arrested once we step out of the premises of the Batasan."

'We are free to leave'

Ocampo expressed hope that all the other lawmakers in the House and the Senate would back their stand that "we, the Batasan 5, are free to leave the Batasan premises" and that Beltran, who is detained at Camp Crame, should be released.

He said the stand-off between the executive branch and Congress over their case "only exposes the highly undemocratic and antidemocratic tendency, if not the essential character," of the Arroyo administration.

"Under this government, we have to assert and bitterly fight for our rights and freedoms in order to exercise and enjoy them, no matter that—or precisely because—the assertion of our rights and freedoms is met by the government with deliberate repression and unrestrained violence," Ocampo said.

"We owe it to our people to assert these rights and freedoms that are inalienably theirs, too. If the government applies brutal force, as it is wont to do, against our action [tomorrow], we will confront it with militant and dignified defiance," he said, adding:

"By our action [tomorrow], we will also give the DOJ and the PNP and, yes, Malacañang the chance to see the folly of their ways."

The Batasan 5 had taken refuge at the House since Feb. 27, after the DOJ linked them to the alleged Left-Right plot to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

Rule of law

In Helsinki, Finland, where he was one of the speakers at a conference on climate change, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. expressed support for the five militant lawmakers.

"Law enforcers are well-advised that we are operating under the rule of law. If they arrest the Batasan 5 despite Judge Delorino's [resolution] ... they should be cited for contempt and charged with illegal arrest," the senator said in a text message.

Pimentel also criticized the DOJ for including Honasan in the case that Delorino had dismissed.

"I think the DOJ is exhibiting its bullheadedness in harassing people in order to deflect the issues on the fundamental wrongdoing of Gloria (Ms Arroyo)," he said in a phone call.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that the fugitive Honasan, leader of the failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the 1980s and a prime destabilization suspect of the Arroyo administration, had gotten in touch with Pimentel to seek his help regarding the DOJ case against him.

Pimentel said he received four text messages from Honasan the other week requesting assistance so that he would get "fair treatment" once he surfaced.

Honasan wanted to be sure that his rights would not be violated, the senator said.

The government has put up a P5-million reward for information leading to the capture of Honasan.

No surrender feelers

Pimentel said he was willing to extend legal aid to Honasan, particularly to ensure that the latter would get due process and that his rights as an accused would be protected.

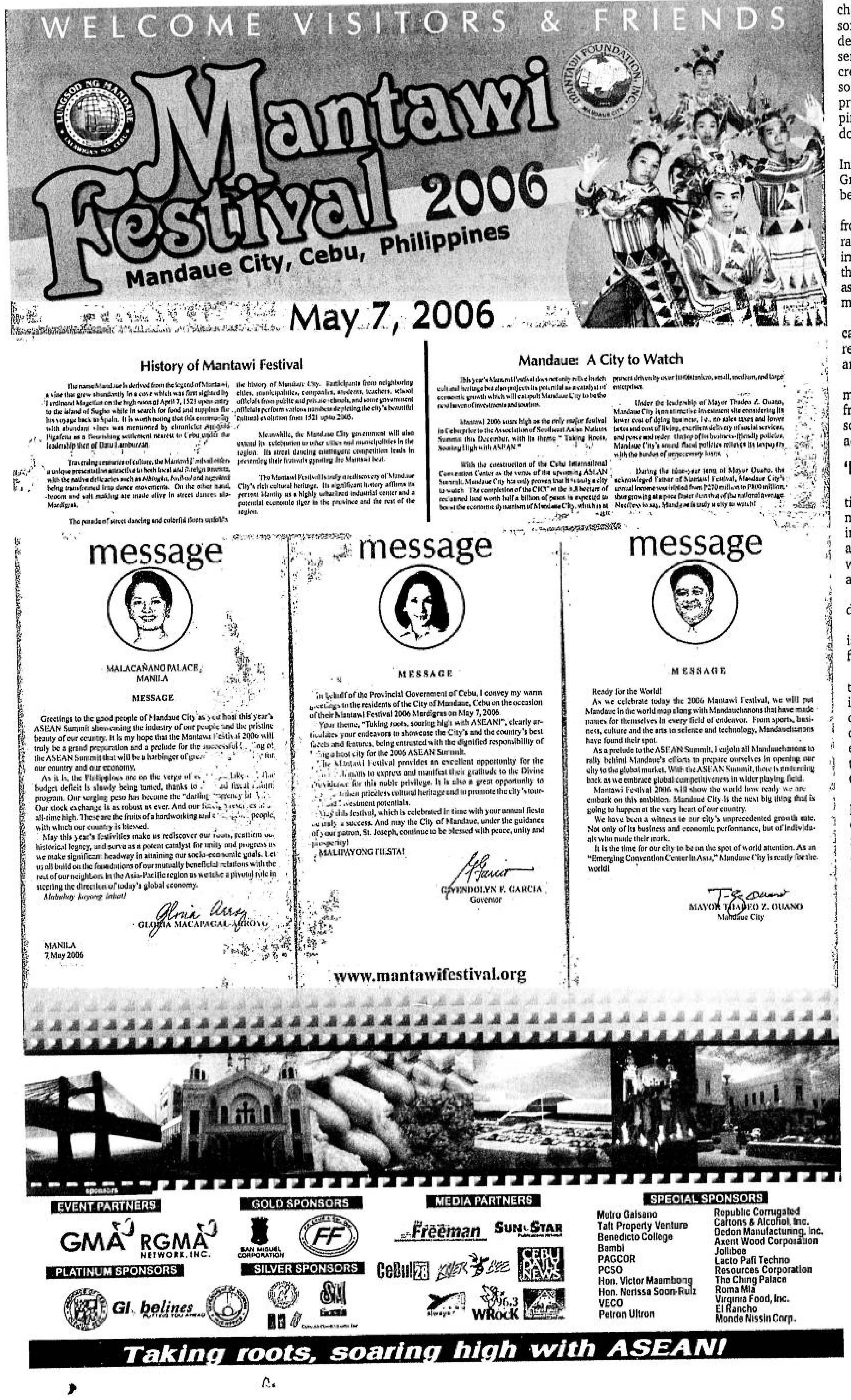
He said Honasan's lawyer had phoned him to take exception to a headline of an INQUIRER report, which said Honasan had sent surrender feelers.

"We did not send surrender feelers," Pimentel quoted the lawyer as saying.

He said the lawyer also told him: "We will appreciate your continued support because apparently the DOJ does not recognize [Honasan's] rights."

Pimentel, however, said he was not making an extra effort to reach Honasan.

"It might not be too wise to meet with him because I might put him in jeopardy. If I arrange for a meeting with him, that could lead to his arrest," Pimentel said.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MANILA

MESSAGE

Greetings to the good people of Mandaue City as you host this year's ASEAN Summit showcasing the industry of our people and the pristine beauty of our country. It is my hope that the Mantawi Festival 2006 will truly be a grand preparation and a prelude for the successful [illegible] of the ASEAN Summit that will be a harbinger of [illegible] for our country and our economy.

As it is, the Philippines are on the verge of [illegible] budget deficit is slowly being turned, thanks to [illegible] program. Our surging peso has become the "darling [illegible]. Our stock exchange is as robust as ever. And our [illegible] all-time high. These are the fruits of a hardworking and [illegible] people, with which our country is blessed.

May this year's festivities make us rediscover our roots, reaffirm our historical legacy, and serve as a potent catalyst for unity and progress as we make significant headway in attaining our socio-economic goals. Let us all build on the foundations of our mutually beneficial relations with the rest of our neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region as we take a pivotal role in steering the direction of today's global economy.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
7 May 2006

message

MESSAGE

In behalf of the Provincial Government of Cebu, I convey my warm greetings to the residents of the City of Mandaue, Cebu on the occasion of their Mantawi Festival 2006 Mardigras on May 7, 2006.

Your theme, "Taking roots, soaring high with ASEAN!", clearly articulates your endeavors to showcase the City's and the country's best facets and features, being entrusted with the dignified responsibility of being a host city for the 2006 ASEAN Summit.

The Mantawi Festival provides an excellent opportunity for the [illegible] to express and manifest their gratitude to the Divine Providence for this noble privilege. It is also a great opportunity to [illegible] priceless cultural heritage and to promote the city's tourism and investment potentials.

May this festival, which is celebrated in time with your annual fiesta be truly a success. And may the City of Mandaue, under the guidance of your patron, St. Joseph, continue to be blessed with peace, unity and prosperity!

MALIPAYONG FIESTA!

GWENDOLYN F. GARCIA
Governor

message

MESSAGE

Ready for the World!

As we celebrate today the 2006 Mantawi Festival, we will put Mandaue in the world map along with Mandauehanons that have made names for themselves in every field of endeavor. From sports, business, culture and the arts to science and technology, Mandauehanons have found their spot.

As a prelude to the ASEAN Summit, I enjoin all Mandauehanons to rally behind Mandaue's efforts to prepare ourselves in opening our city to the global market. With the ASEAN Summit, there is no turning back as we embrace global competitiveness in wider playing field.

Mantawi Festival 2006 will show the world how ready we are embark on this ambition. Mandaue City is the next big thing that is going to happen at the very heart of our country.

We have been a witness to our city's unprecedented growth rate. Not only of its business and economic performance, but of individuals who made their mark.

It is the time for our city to be on the spot of world attention. As an "Emerging Convention Center in Asia," Mandaue City is ready for the world!

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‘Erap showed me his copy’–Gonzales

By Cynthia D. Balana

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER NORBERTO Gonzales yesterday said the administration was aware that former President Joseph Estrada had received information described in a US court as classified, and that the ousted leader even showed him some of the documents.

Gonzales claimed that Estrada was aware that the documents were official and classified but might not have known that their unauthorized use was punishable under US laws.

Speaking in a radio interview, Gonzales recalled that Estrada showed him some of the US documents that Gonzales said he now believed had come from Filipino-American intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo.

“That’s true because when I visited him, he let me read documents from the Embassy of the United States,” Gonzales said in Filipino.

“What I recall is that they appeared like analyses. What they (the Americans) were saying was that it appeared that there was a stalemate between the opposition and the government. The opposition couldn’t bring down the government and the government was having difficulty because the opposition was too noisy.”

Meeting of friends

Asked why Estrada allowed him to read the documents, Gonzales said the former President was his friend and they would exchange views on certain issues.

Also, Estrada might have been trying to show the extent of his sources, having been President, he said.

Gonzales said that, at first, he had no idea that the documents could have been coming from Aragoncillo.

Truth is coming out

He said the documents shown by Estrada did not have any accompanying cover, which is usually marked “top secret” or “classified.”

He said the documents contained analyses, probably made by US representatives in the Philippines, of the political situation obtaining in the country.

Gonzales said his office investigated the Aragoncillo case and the alleged plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration and concluded that these were related and that Estrada was involved.

“It is good that the truth is coming out,” Gonzales said. “Insofar as what is coming out of the Aragoncillo case is concerned, we don’t need to be told that President Erap is among those who want to remove President Gloria.”

All embassies snoop

“This Aragoncillo case is a bit serious,” Gonzales said. “Regardless of the level of the information that is coming from America, especially if that is official information, if we use that, there are laws that deal with that, especially in America.”

Asked if the classified information meant the United States was actively spying on the Philippines, Gonzales said there was nothing wrong with embassies doing analyses on their host countries.

“That’s the work of all embassies in the Philippines,” he said. “That is also the work of our embassies in foreign countries. It is important for us to understand what is happening in countries friendly to us and in countries hostile to us.”

UP AND AWAY. President Macapagal-Arroyo waves to well-wishers from the Learjet that was to take her to Macau yesterday to attend the wedding of Speaker Jose de Venecia’s step-daughter Carissa Cruz before heading on to Saudi Arabia. LYN RILLON

‘Let’s go easy on Erap’

From page A1

charges could be filed against Estrada and the others.

Nachura noted that while Aragoncillo was prosecuted largely for compromising US national security, it had to be established whether the classified documents he passed on to Ms Arroyo’s enemies posed a domestic threat.

Recipients of Aragoncillo’s e-mails and fax messages, such as Estrada, Lacson and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, have maintained the materials they received did not contain confidential information.

Ermita shared Nachura’s sobering view.

US documents not needed

“We can file rebellion charges but we don’t have to base [them] on the documents Aragoncillo leaked from the FBI,” Ermita said. “We already have a lot of documents here about their plans. That will be our basis and not documents from other countries. We will act independently on everybody’s cases depending on available evidence.”

Nachura said that Aragoncillo’s admission did not mean the government had a solid case against anti-Arroyo politicians.

“Aragoncillo may have pleaded guilty but that does not necessarily mean that his plea of guilt will bind others implicated in the case. It all depends on what crimes they will be charged with,” Nachura said.

Not binding

Also charged in the US espionage case was former police superintendent and Lacson protégé Michael Rey Aquino, who was arrested last September.

Aquino, the alleged bridge between Aragoncillo and Ms Arroyo’s political rivals, pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent.

“Even those who are accused with Aragoncillo cannot be bound by his confession,” Nachura said. “Just because one confessed to a group’s crime does not necessarily mean that all of the members are guilty.”

‘Estrada on the ropes’

Nachura said his prudent stand on the issue was not caused by the rebuke the administration suffered at the hands of the Supreme Court on the issues involving Executive Order No. 464, the calibrated preemptive response policy and Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a state of national emergency.

But Gonzalez saw matters differently.

In a telephone interview, the secretary said the Department of Justice was already working with foreign affairs officials to secure copies of the transcripts of Aragoncillo’s testimony for possible use in a Philippine court.

“In boxing, when the boxer is groggy, he leans on the ropes. If this is boxing, [Estrada] is now leaning on the ropes,” Gonzalez said, speaking from Iloilo.

“They look damaging to me,” Gonzalez said of Aragoncillo’s statements. “He was quite clear that there was really a conspiracy among them.”

The link is showing

Asked if Aragoncillo’s admission could be used as evidence against Estrada and the others in the filing of rebellion charges, Gonzalez answered in the affirmative.

“Based on the statements thus far, they are quite serious and the linkage is beginning to show,” he said.

Asked if Aragoncillo’s testimony would strengthen the administration case, Gonzalez said: “Yes ... with all of them and several other people involved in the destabilization.”

“We can use that as evidence, but they remain hearsay at this point ... That’s why we must get hold of the entire transcript. I asked our consulate there to secure the transcripts because these are all public documents.”

‘Don’t blame me’

“They are facing something serious which is of their own making,” Gonzalez said. “So they have no one here to blame. They cannot blame us.”

Estrada is currently on trial for plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

Gonzalez said statements made under oath in foreign courts were admissible here as long as they were authenticated.

“It becomes admissible in court if you have the transcripts of the proceedings where the admission or confession was made and we can get an authenticated copy. You can introduce that as evidence,” he said.

But he admitted this kind of evidence “is not as impeccable as somebody testifying in front of you.”

Admissible in RP

According to Gonzalez, courts all over the world are now even allowing “trial by video.”

“In this particular case, they are charged with conspiracy involving public officials in this country. So basically, if the trial is in the US, the evidence is adduced there. So that is admissible as long as the transcript was authenticated. So the admission made there, which was definitely made under oath in an American court, has value here,” he said

Hold your horses

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. volunteered some advice to the administration: Hold your horses.

Reacting to Gonzalez’s earlier statement that the administration could file rebellion charges against Estrada and the others, Pimentel said: “I doubt it very much because you have to show that Erap and Ping Lacson are engaged in a plot to overthrow Gloria.”

“The sending of information is one thing and advocating the overthrow of the government is another. The connecting information has to surface first,” said Pimentel, a lawyer.

Not fatal

“The mere act of sending the information and of Erap or Ping receiving it does not automatically translate into a violation of Philippine laws. *Malayo pa yan sa bituka* (That is still a long way from the gut),” Pimentel told the INQUIRER in a phone call from Helsinki, Finland, where he spoke at a forum on global warming and climate change.

“That is just in the mind of Raul Gonzalez,” Pimentel added.

Pimentel was to rendezvous today with Lacson, as well as Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Richard Gordon and other senators who are in Kenya for the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Lacson could not be contacted because he was en route to the IPU meeting.

Proof of conspiracy

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Aragoncillo case “speaks for itself.”

“It proves beyond doubt that (the) conspiracy to oust the President ... include(s) prominent public officials who have caused embarrassment to the country by their actions,” he said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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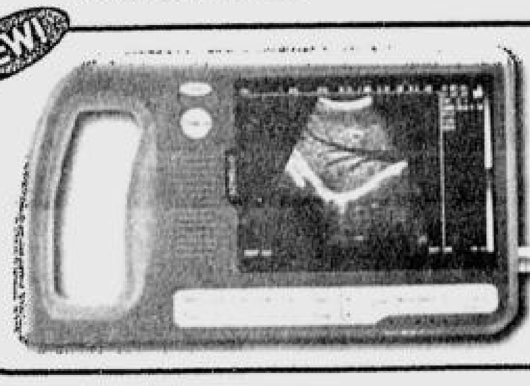

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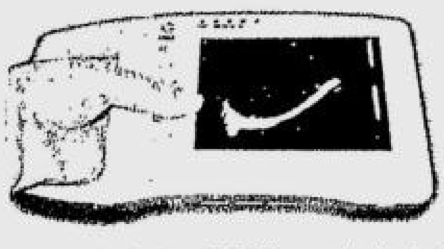

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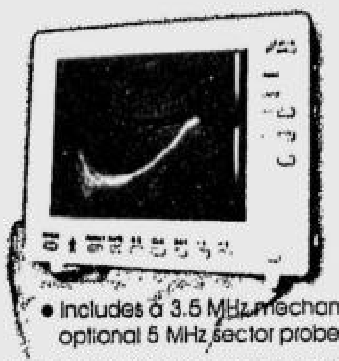

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To join, mothers must take a 45 second video of their child (3 to 6 years old) together in a special bonding moment. The video can be shot using a camera phone and sent via MMS to 2955 for Globe, Smart and Sun Cellular subscribers. Video shot using a video camera can also be emailed to frisogrowvideo@yahoo.com.ph or send a tape or CD to Campaigns and Grey, 8/F Lepanto Bldg., Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Deadline for submission of videos is on May 20, 2006.

The videos sent in will be aired on the Lifestyle Network on July 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 7:30-8:00 p.m. Viewers can then vote for their favorite entries via text from June 4 to July 23, 2006. The video with the most number of votes will win a free trip for four to Disneyland, USA. Voters will also get a chance to win a camera phone by participating.

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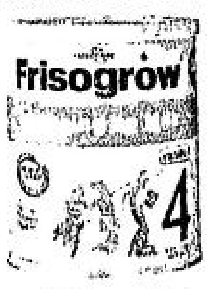

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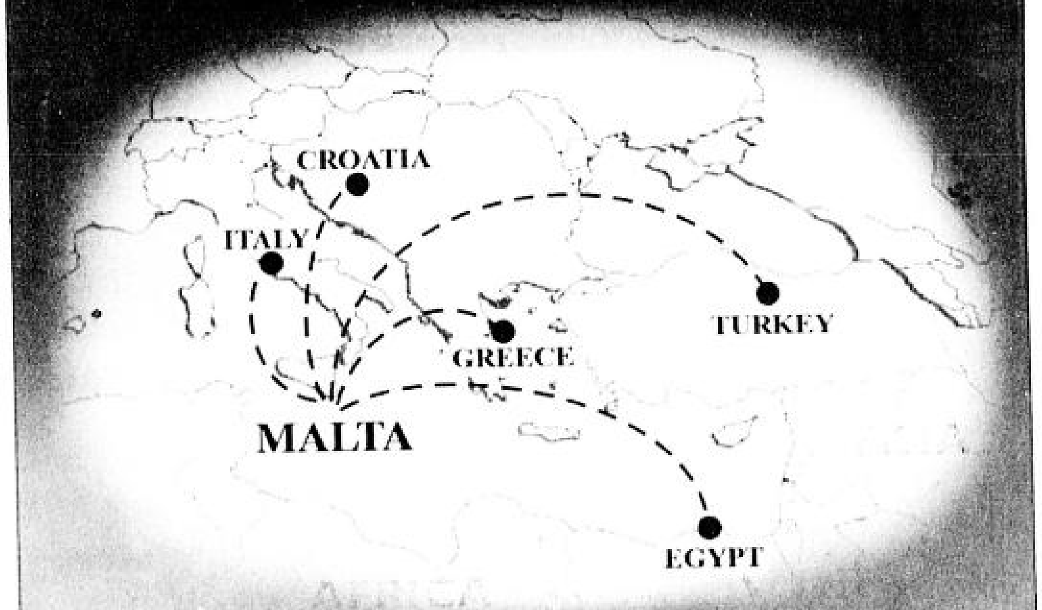

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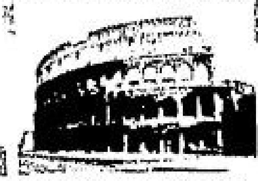

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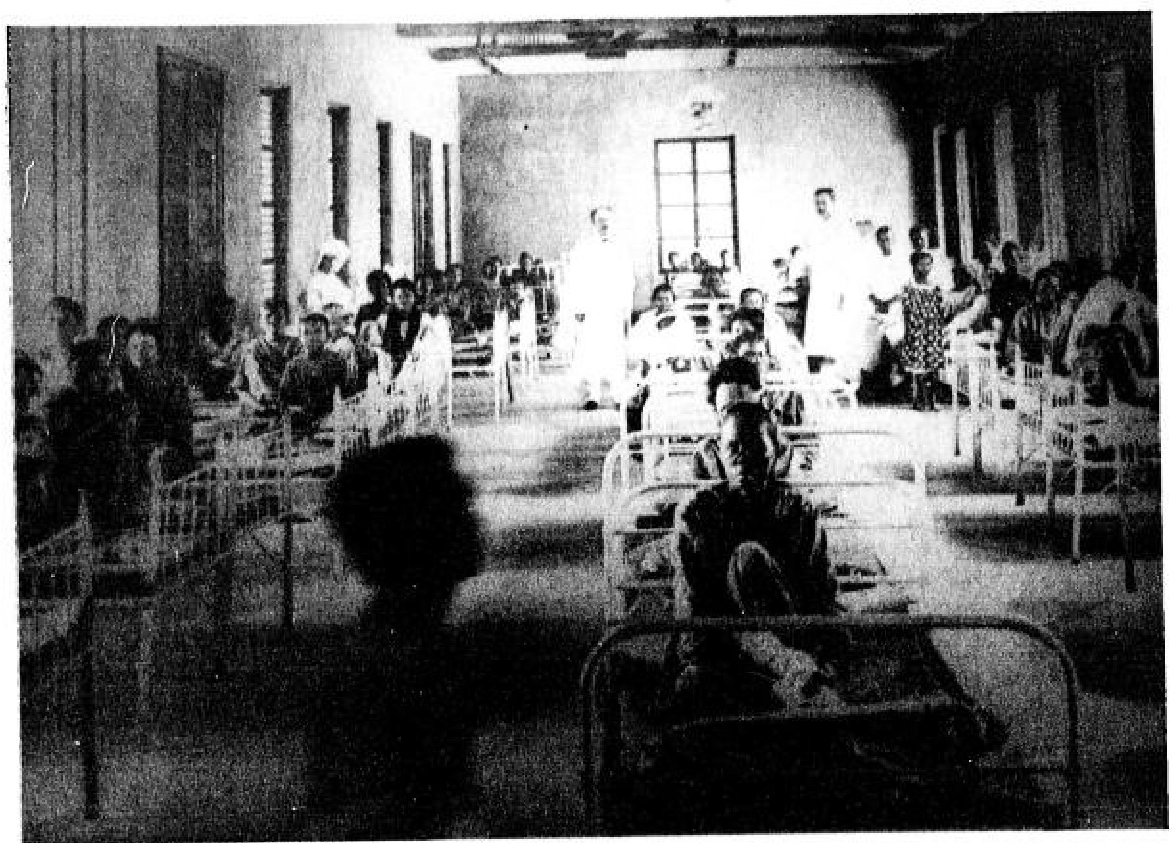


AT THE MUSEUM (above), a man walks past a huge photograph of the patients and their American doctors at the sanitarium. Former patients (right) reenact the emotional landing in 1906 of the first batch of persons afflicted with leprosy.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

DAYLIGHT streams through a hospital room. Contrary to belief, it takes only a year to treat the most severe types of leprosy.

Culion: Island of living dead no longer

From page A1

on my arms."

At first, she said, "they would ask whether the scars were inborn or a result of burns."

"I can't lie about the scars, so I tell the interviewers everything," she recalled. "Then there would be a long pause, as though they were thinking hard. And then they tell me to just wait for their call."

No call ever came.

'Happiest thing'

Late last year, an Australian evangelical pastor whom Chris first met at the sanitarium heard about her situation—and offered her a job.

Chris has since been reporting to work three days a week as a secretary at the Mactan Christian Center, which pays her P220 a day.

"That's the happiest thing that happened in my life. But it's also sad to realize that foreigners seem more educated about the nature of leprosy than Filipinos," she said.

Chris' story captured the thrust of yesterday's celebration at Culion: Winning the battle against the "social stigma" attached to leprosy despite the fact that it's a curable, low-contagion disease.

It takes only a year of medication to treat the most severe types of leprosy.

Seven days after one has begun treatment, "it's no longer contagious," explained Joy Pontenila, a PLMI program manager who accompanied Chris to Culion.

Triumph of love

Regarded through most of its 100-year history as the "Island of the Living Dead" or "The Island of No Return," Culion was as proudly dressed as any other Filipino town caught up in a fiesta frenzy.

Today, Culion is leprosy-free but its sanitarium and general hospital are still taking care of around 170 "custodial patients" who have been cured of leprosy but are either disabled or too old to go anywhere else. This once secluded community of medical exiles has literally consigned its painful past to a museum and has chosen to celebrate the triumph of love and compassion.

The museum and archives on Culion's first few decades as a leprosarium were unveiled, with dignitaries representing a major Japanese sponsor—the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation—among the honored guests.

Flags and bunting adorned the streets and beach front. Public buildings were awash in fresh coats of paint, and even a "tourism committee" armed with leaflets and a local story or two was on hand to assist members of the media.

Some of the former patients, who reportedly make up 70 to 80 percent of the current population of 20,000, staged a theatrical reenactment of the May 27, 1906, landing of the first batch of people afflicted with the disease.

(The centennial celebration was held earlier to avoid inclement weather, organizers said.)

The tableau marked the emotional arrival of Culion's first 365 patients, mostly from the Visayas, on board two Coast Guard vessels.

A year later, in 1907, the Segregation Law on Leprosy was enacted by the American colonial government.

The law made it mandatory for leprosy patients to be rounded up, isolated, and shipped to Culion.

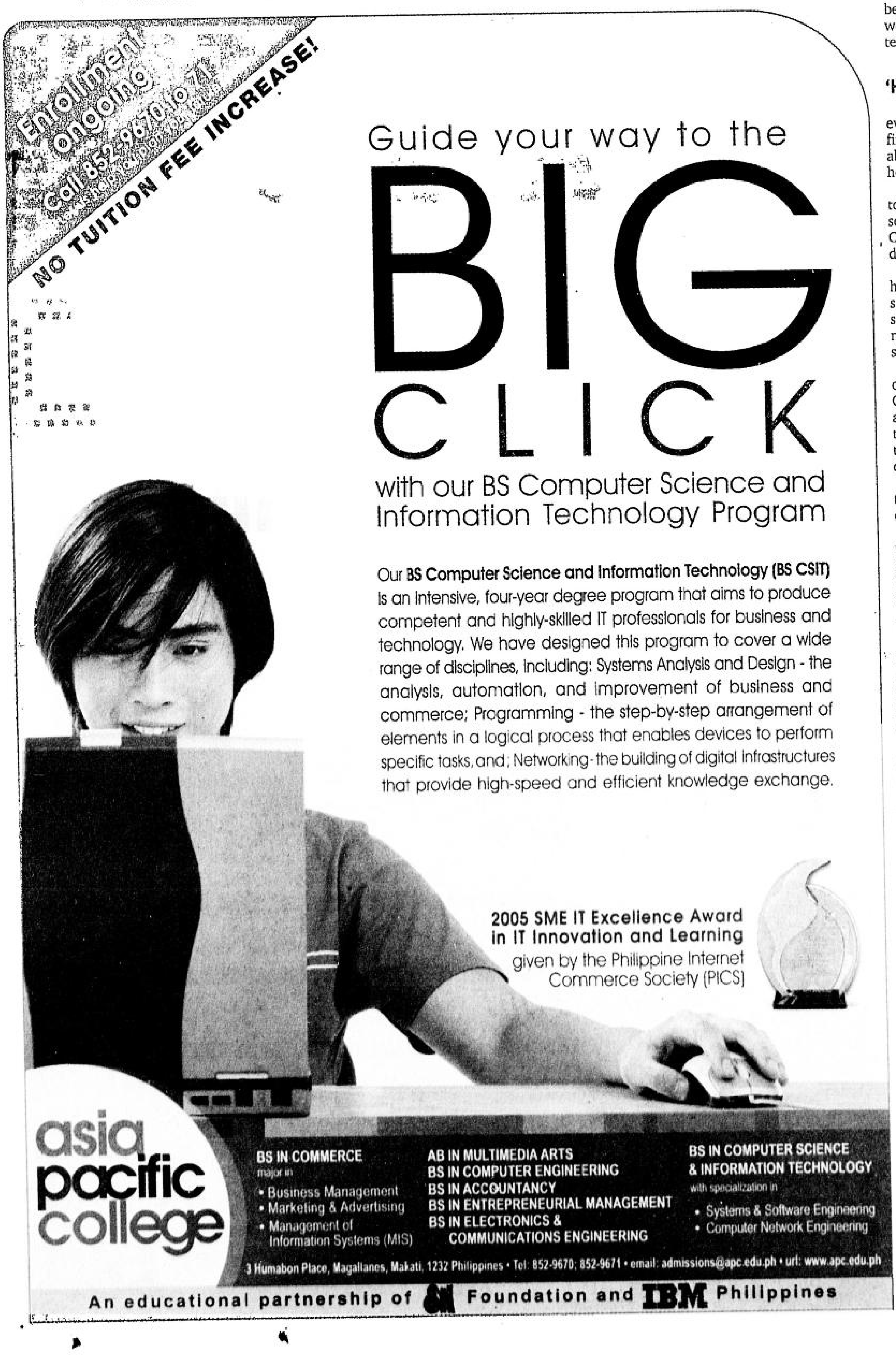
Transformation

Dr. Art Cunanan, a Department of Health official who heads the Culion Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation Program, said the centennial, while replete with nostalgia over all the leprosy patients cured here, would rather focus on the island's "transformation."

From being a declared leper colony for about 75 years, Culion became a municipality in 1992.

In 1998, the DOH declared that leprosy was no longer a public health concern on the island.

PRESENT-DAY scene: A man and his cat mark the passage of time. Fewer than 200 patients are still at the hospital as "custodial patients"—cured but with nowhere to go or suffering from other ailments.



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Ireland lets spouses of OFWs work

By Jerome Aning

IRELAND WILL ISSUE WORK PERMITS TO spouses of overseas Filipino workers employed in that country, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

The new Irish immigration policy would reunite many Filipino families in Ireland, Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Prior to the new arrangement, spouses of OFWs in Ireland—mostly husbands of Filipino nurses and caregivers—could not work in Ireland. This discouraged the OFWs from bringing their spouses and children there.

The new regulations followed weeks of negotiations between Philippine Embassy officials in London and Irish officials.

The Philippine Embassy in London, which has jurisdiction over Ireland, initiated the talks during a consular outreach program in Dublin, the Irish capital, last March.

Ireland would also allow some 2,000 Filipino caregivers to undergo hospital training as nurses, Sto. Tomas said.

The Irish government came up a new procedure where foreign health care workers, particularly caregivers, if found qualified by the Irish Nursing Board, would be allowed to undergo an adaptation program for nursing in a training hospital.

Sto. Tomas said the new scheme would benefit about 2,000 Filipino caregivers in Irish nursing homes who had been classified as under-board nurses in Ireland.

The labor secretary said the new Irish immigration and employment policies were "milestones in the efforts of the Philippine Embassy in London to promote the welfare of OFWs and their families in Ireland."

She likewise conveyed gratitude to the Irish government for extending employment opportunities to OFWs.

"We in the labor department express our deep appreciation of the Irish government and the Filipino officials in London for their active involvement in promoting and safeguarding the rights and welfare of the OFWs in Ireland," Sto. Tomas said in a statement.

Last rites for late Unilab chief set

THE REMAINS OF JOSE YAO CAMPOS, founder and chair emeritus of United Laboratories Inc. (Unilab), the Unilab Group of Companies and Greenfield Group of Companies, will be cremated on May 8 after 1 p.m. Mass at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. He passed away on May 1 at the age of 84.

He is survived by his wife Beatrice; children Joy, Butch and Ollie, Jeffrey and Elizabeth, and grandchildren Clinton and Jacqueline, Chrissy, Mikey, Jeanette, Jaclyn and Luke, Jay, Janelle, Jamie and Nifia.

After the end of World War II in 1945, Campos opened a small drugstore in war-ravaged Manila with the avowed aim of providing "quality medicines at prices within reach of as many people as possible in the community." According to Unilab, Campos thought it would have been "unreasonable and coarse to sell medicines at prices determined by pure business objectives alone to sick people whose livelihood had been lost in the war."

The drugstore quickly developed into a pharmaceutical company. In the late 1950s, despite having to contend with multinational corporations, Unilab became one of the top pharmaceutical companies in the country. It has retained its competitive position up to now.

In 2003, Unilab was the 35th top corporation in the Philippines, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The following year, it ranked 37th with sales of more than P17 billion.

Unilab has extended its reach outside the Philippines. It is a provider of health care products in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

While Campos devoted considerable attention to Unilab, he also invested in other industries like processed food, mass transportation and real estate.

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Pigs in Canada

EDITORIALS

APPARENTLY, PIGS IN CANADA DINE WITH SPOON and fork. That, at least, is what the principal of a school in Montreal seems to suggest, after describing the "table behavior" of a 7-year-old Filipino boy newly immigrated to Canada in the following educational terms: "If your son eats like a pig, he has to go to another table because this is the way we do it and how we're going to do it every time."

That, word for word, is what the principal of Ecole Lalande, identified by a Montreal newspaper as Normand Bergeron, told the boy's mother over the phone, after she called to complain.

The object of her complaint was the repeated decision by her son's "lunch monitor" to punish the boy for eating with a spoon and fork. According to the newspaper report, which named the boy and his mother and even carried their photograph, the supervising teacher ordered the boy "more than 10 times this year" to eat at a table by himself, whenever he ate with a spoon and fork, instead of with a fork alone.

Matters came to a head when the boy finally told his mother on April 11: "Mommy, I don't want to eat anymore. My teacher is telling me that eating with a spoon and fork is yucky and disgusting."

When the mother complained to the principal, Bergeron defended the teacher's decisions and then of course unburdened himself of that choice, character-forming simile. "Your son eats like a pig." (What is education, after all, but character formation?) The mother also quoted Bergeron as saying, "Madame, you are in Canada. Here in Canada, you should eat the way Canadians eat."

The principal has a point, of course, about the need to adapt to the requirements of a larger culture, but he misses the larger point: Canada is celebrated for its multicultural diversity, its hospitality to various cultures. Ostracizing a 7-year-old for his eating habits—shared by countless Filipino families—runs counter to Canada's own heritage.

Bergeron's unseemly conduct is based on assumptions, about culture and immigration, that can only be described as racist.

We are glad to note that the Philippine Embassy in Canada has supported the boy's mother in her complaint filed with the local school board. "The embassy considers this an affront to Philippine culture and continues to vigorously support any action that will validate a conclusion of racial discrimination," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said the other day.

We are even more glad that a Canadian non-government organization dedicated to helping victims of discrimination, the Center for Research Action on Race Relations, has also filed a second complaint, seeking moral damages from the lunch monitor. That, we believe, is in keeping with the best Canadian tradition of putting your money where your mouth is.

Angels of Pinatubo

A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS HAS SPENT THE LAST several years doing humanitarian work involving the Aetas of Mt. Pinatubo. "We work from the shadows," the self-effacing Jennifer Wallum said the other day, by way of explaining what the Entrepreneurs Volunteers Assistance Charity Foundation has done and continues to do.

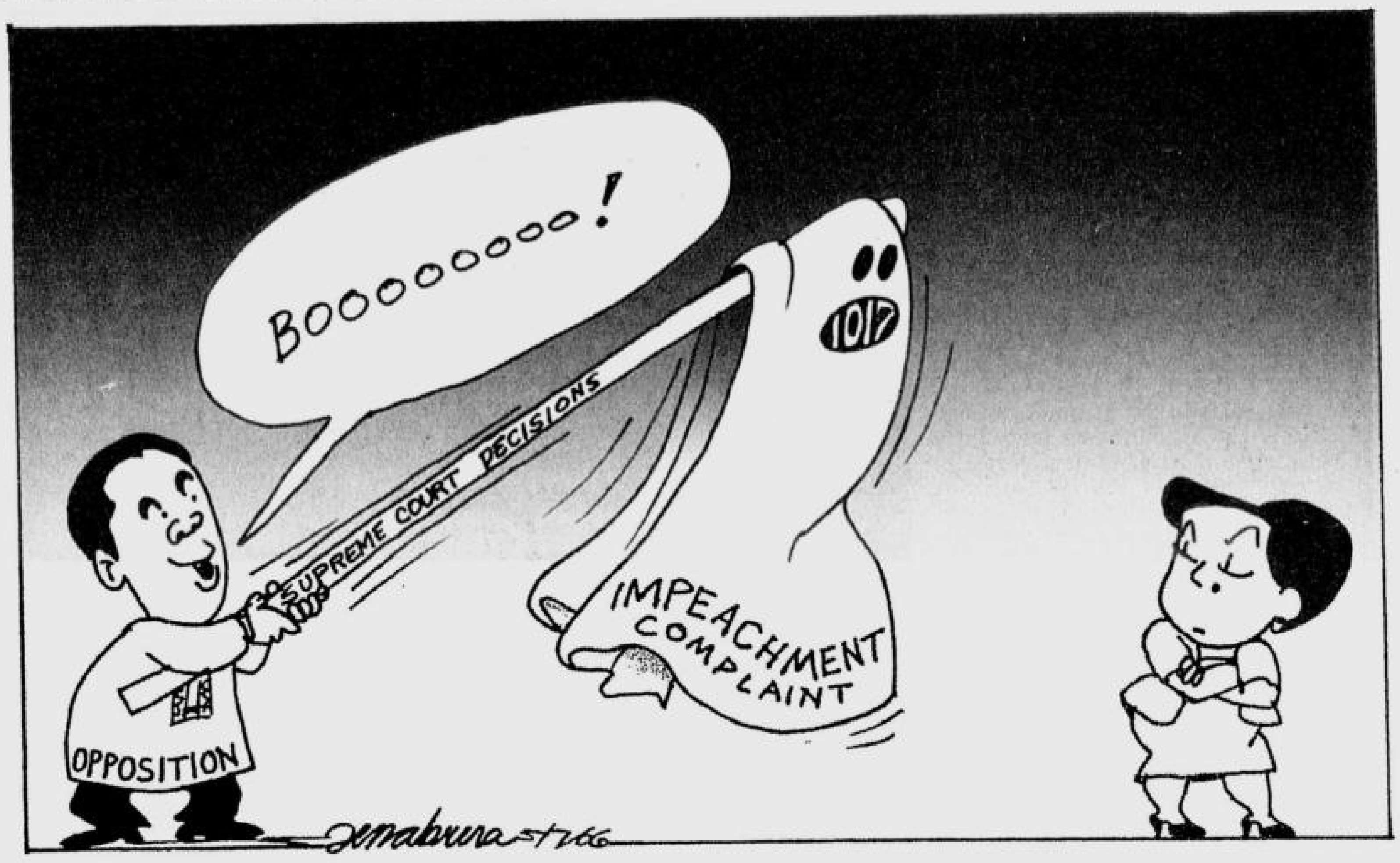
The group sources donations from the country and from around the world, as well as engages in what is called social marketing (for instance, selling bags with silk-screened Pinatubo motifs), in order to help Aeta communities. In particular, the group has helped fund Traditional Tribal Origins Ethnic Education Schools (cheekily called Toes), which allow Aetas to learn in educational settings that integrate traditional Aeta beliefs and knowledge.

"We are rarely seen in the communities," Wallum said. "If we are always appearing there, it is disruptive to the culture."

The number of Toes has grown over the years, a clear sign of both the volunteers' determination and the tenacity of the Aeta people. Today, there are eight in Bataan, four in Pampanga, 12 in Tarlac and six in Zambales.

"Although they want to conserve their culture," Wallum said, "at the same time [their openness to learning] means that they can have extra knowledge so that they can survive better in the new world."

Hope is one step, one toehold, at a time.



Summa cum laude

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SUMMA CUM LAUDE FOR THE SUPREME Court for its splendid decision striking down Presidential Proclamation 1017. It was an abhorrent measure that deserved the indignation of the highest tribunal as the conscience of the government. The Court has proved to be the bastion of the rule of law that Ms Arroyo had callously violated. The justices have shown beyond peradventure that they are the ultimate protectors of the Constitution that those in power are wont to ignore and traduce.

I have not yet read the decision in full but I am thrilled enough by the reports in the INQUIRER of the essential rulings of the landmark case. The proclamation was roundly rejected as an open and blatant defiance of the paramount law as the guardian of the rights of the people in the democratic society. The Supreme Court has assured the nation, in language that cannot be misunderstood even by those who are none so blind as those who will not see that Proclamation No. 1017 was arrant tyranny.

The *ponencia* is a fitting reprimand for President Macapagal-Arroyo who, as the chief enforcer of the law, has been exposed to be its chief violator. The justices may not have said so directly out of respect for her exalted office, but their meaning was pungently clear. In issuing and enforcing the challenged proclamation, she had willfully violated the Bill of Rights and the nature of republican government. She had attempted but failed, thanks to a vigilant Supreme Court, to impose another dictatorship on this country.

I must confess—and I do so joyously now—that I had apprehensions about how the Supreme Court would decide the controversial case. Like many other citizens, I was worried that the justices, who had all but two been appointed by President Arroyo, might be moved by *utang na loob* in ruling for her and not against the proclamation. I thank God that I was mistaken. It swells the heart that a clear majority of the Court, following their knowledge of the law and the biddings of their conscience, voted to declare Proclamation No. 1017 unconstitutional.

Our history would not have been seriously blemished during the time of Ferdinand Marcos if the Supreme Court then had summoned the courage to stop him when he declared martial law in 1972 and started to impose eventual despotism with his avaricious arrogation of power (and public funds). This is second-guessing now, but I like to think that the dictator could have been stopped on his tracks if the spineless justices then had shown the courage exhibited by the members of the present Supreme Court.

The SCRA is full of the shameful cases exhibiting the cowardice of the justices of the Supreme Court in justifying every act of Marcos that unquestionably (except in the minds of his flunkies on the highest tribunal) violated the Constitution and the liberties of the people. The Constitution of 1973 was ratified like a barangay ordinance; suspected enemies of the regime were picked up and murdered; private properties were confiscated for private gain; civil liberties were violated; Ninoy Aquino was assassinated; Congress was replaced with a rubber-stamp Batasang Pambansa; and Amendment No. 6 insulated the despot from rightful accountability and retribution. All these and more were "legitimized" by a craven and covetous Supreme Court that remains the blackest disgrace in the annals of our judiciary.

Not so the present Supreme Court. This is the tribunal that only recently annulled Executive Order No. 464 for impinging on the inherent and express power of Congress to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation, ruled against government strictures against freedom of speech and the right of peaceful assembly, and last Wednesday checked another would-be dictator by annulling her Proclamation No. 1017 as an obvious attempt to place the Philippines under a new but no less vicious despotism.

"I like to think grandly of the Supreme Court justices now as like the great Lord Coke of England who, in answer to the intimidations and importuning of his monarch, intoned the ringing words that have since become the motto of all just courts: "I will do what becomes me as a judge."

I have been critical of it on many occasions, but now I sincerely and proudly say: "All honor to the Supreme Court of the Philippines!" The judicial robes become the justices like habiliments of courage and wisdom.

Good shepherds!?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A CHILD WHO asked his father, "Dad, is it true that in China, a man does not know his wife until the day he marries her?"

"That is true in every country, son," the father replied with a sigh.

* * *

In today's Gospel, the Lord calls Himself the Good Shepherd who not only knows His sheep, but also lays down His life for His sheep. Let us ask ourselves today, what sort of shepherds we are. Are we shepherds who have real concern for our sheep, or, are we shepherds who just work for pay?

* * *

How consoling to know that the Lord knows and is concerned about each one of us. In this world of materialism and consumerism, how assuring to know that we are not just a number or a disposable commodity. People who tend to mislead, misinform, manipulate, use and abuse other people for their personal agenda need to listen and learn from the Good Shepherd, for whom every person is worth "stopping" and dying for.

* * *

Last May 2, I said a Mass for children who have cancer. "Brave Kids" we call them, who at an early and tender age have to go through chemotherapy and all the pain, discomforts and loneliness that accompany cancer. I would like to salute Paul and Sigrid Perez, and many other parents of cancer-stricken children who stay with their sheep and continue to pray, hope and grow with their children. They are brave parents, good shepherds. Most touching was when the kids let go of their white balloons with a sincere wish and prayer for healing—and for normal lives without much anguish and pain.

* * *

Four Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) were killed when American planes bombed the town of Bangued, Abra on March 10, 1945. Fathers Teodoro Winter, Ludovico Willert, Pablo Franke and Ireneo Batoon had opted to stay with their flock who took shelter at the Bangued Cathedral. They helped the wounded and led them in prayer till the end. We remember them in gratitude, and the many countless good shepherds we have met in life. A far cry from the many noisy people today who claim to be shepherds, but who in reality are wolves out to devour the sheep.

* * *

An eyewitness to the March 10, 1945 bombing of Bangued, Abra was former Pangasinan Gov. Rafael Colet who was then 9 years old. He related how the whole town was in disarray after the bombing ended. From the fields, he rushed to their home and, in tears, looked and dug into the debris, hoping to find his mother. Hours later, he was reunited with his mother, and what a reunion it was. The reason I am mentioning this is to remind parents to never, never underestimate their precious presence in their children's lives. For that matter, all people who have big shepherding responsibilities must never take for granted or take lightly the importance of their role as shepherds.

* * *

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, may we also remind those in the government, military and police that as shepherds, they are supposed to protect and not pounce on the little ones of our society. They have been given the power precisely to serve the people, not to abuse or deprive them. Time will tell and time will surely reveal who the servants of the people really are. Time will also tell who of our so-called public servants are real public servants. Yes, truth, no matter how people hide it, will surely come out in the end.

* * *

We would like to thank all those who helped in the "Dinner for a Cause"—held last April 8, 2006 to help restore the castle in Christ the King Seminary—where we, priests, served as waiters. No big deal really because by virtue of our ordination, we are called to be servers, waiters and servants, not only in words, but especially in deeds.

* * *

Don't forget, May 14 is Mother's Day. Let us remember, in a special way, all mothers who are natural shepherds, gifted by God with a heart that knows how to give and how to sacrifice. Yes, a mother's heart is that which is closest to God's heart. God bless and reward all mothers!

* * *

The month of May is the month of Mary, our Mother. We ask her most powerful intercession for our families, our country and the whole world. Just as we gave her floral offerings every afternoon of this month when we were children, may we continue to give hearts to her—hearts that are open to sharing, forgiveness and love.

What is it that you can offer to your mother? What is it that she asks of you?

* * *

We take time today to remember our parents, our shepherds who have been there for us all these years. I received this text message "Let us enjoy our parents while they are still with us; while we still can see, hold and embrace them, and while they still can celebrat with us; let's lavish them with love becaus they labored hard for the things we enjoy now, let's talk to them now, visit them now and wai not for the time when they hear us no mor and we have to make our visits before thei tombstones."

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, you are our Good Shepherd. Help us t be good shepherds to others, too. Amen.

The POC and Philippine basketball

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ONE MONTH AGO, THE SPORTS SECTIONS OF the major newspapers in town were full of photos of Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) officials smiling broadly as they were being greeted by International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge in Seoul, South Korea. The officials—POC president Jose Cojuangco, first vice president Monico Puentevella, and representatives of four major cage stakeholders—were in Korea to brief Federacion Internationale de Basketball (Fiba) secretary general Patrick Baumann on the progress of initiatives aimed at lifting the country's suspension from Fiba- and IOC-sponsored international basketball competitions. The officials also met incoming Fiba president Bob Elphinston of Australia.

Unfortunately, behind the happy faces and social amenities, what they got from Baumann was a blunt statement telling them that the fastest way to get Philippine basketball back on track was for the group to urge Joey Lina, Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) president, to rejoin the group of basketball stakeholders and sign on for the new basketball body, Pilipinas Basketball.

Just to refresh our memories: Sometime in June last year, the POC voted to expel the BAP for various reasons. Some were valid; some were inaccurate, possibly ill-motivated. Whatever was the real reason, the POC failed to take into account the legal repercussions of their action vis-à-vis Fiba-sponsored basketball events. The POC probably thought that after expelling the BAP and setting up a new organization, the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI), Fiba would automatically accept the new group. This did not happen. In fact, as a result of the POC action, Fiba suspended the Philippines from participating in all Fiba-sponsored tournaments. That was the reason why basketball could not be included in the Southeast Asian Games held in Manila in December 2005, even as Philippine basketball fans were looking forward to our defending the basketball crown we won in Vietnam in 2003.

A POC delegation headed by Cojuangco left for Geneva in September to try to get a reversal of the Fiba decision. The mission failed; instead the delegation came home with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which, in an open letter, called "on all our basketball-loving countrymen to swallow the bitter pill now with us for the virtue of long-term gains." The MOU was described by the POC as the "one big break we all had been waiting for." Well, we swallowed the bitter pill of not being able to host the basketball event in the SEA Games but, so far, there has been no long-term gain from such a sacrifice. The deadline for that memorandum of understanding was March 31 this year. The day has come and gone, but we are no closer to having the suspension of the Philippines lifted.

What we see are people ganging up on Lina as though he was the culprit in this mess. Remember that it was the POC that expelled the BAP, and now it is in a bind because it needs Lina's signature to get Fiba accreditation. But why should Lina sign on at the expense of the organization of which he is president?

This is no brief for Lina and the BAP. As I said earlier, some of the criticism leveled against the BAP are valid. But I don't like the idea of pressuring one man and picturing him as the stumbling block in our efforts to solve our basketball problems. The last thing we need is a scapegoat, or someone on whom to pin the blame for a situation created by others.

But even if Lina signed on for the new organization, the road would still be long and tedious for Philippine basketball. This is so because, as clarified by Fiba Secretary General Baumann, Fiba would have to expel the BAP before accepting its replacement—a move Fiba clearly does not relish because "it would set a bad precedent in the world basketball community."

To my mind, the best solution to our problem is really quite simple. Reinstate BAP in the family of our sports associations. Can this happen? Not under the present POC leadership. There is too much pride and *amor propio* involved and, unfortunately, it is the country that suffers. We continue to be a pariah in the international basketball community—an outcast, a leper—all because our sports officials are too self-centered and fail to consider the interests of the nation. We are probably out of the coming Asian Games in Doha as far as basketball is concerned, and we will face this same situation in other Fiba and IOC-approved cage events.

As I mentioned in an earlier column, I am no basketball fanatic. My sport of choice is golf. But this is not really about basketball. This is all about national pride and dignity, and the sooner we get our act together, the better it will be for the country and the millions of Filipino basketball enthusiasts who love this particular sport. For heaven's sake, we are the best in Southeast Asia when it comes to basketball. It is difficult to understand how and why we got into a situation which bars us from international cage competitions.

If the current crop of sports leaders cannot solve the problem of Philippine basketball, perhaps, it is time for them to consider stepping aside and giving others an opportunity to put an end to this shameful state of affairs.

Larger than life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHO HASN'T, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, fantasized about an alter ego—stronger, braver, smarter, luckier, wealthier, more beautiful, more endowed, more confident—everything you aren't, in short?

Who hasn't wondered if the life you're leading is not the one you're meant to lead? That somehow, you hit a crossroads you weren't even aware of and chose the wrong path, or the path that led to an existence smaller, less distinguished, less exciting than the one you were destined for.

A convention of superhero storytelling is in fact this tension between the nondescript human identity our hero must assume for his or her safety, and the superhuman qualities he or she possesses, unleashed only under an assumed superhero personality, larger-than-life but lived behind a mask.

Who hasn't at one time or another dreamed of releasing the superhero that dwells within?

"Ang Kagila-gilalas na Pakikipagsapalaran ni Zsazsa Zaturnnah" (The Fantastic—Amazing, Awesome, Daring—Adventures of Zsazsa Zaturnnah), was a graphic novel by Carlo Vergara unleashed in 2002 "unto a small comics audience." To say the least, it ran away from its creator. It quickly went from cult classic to commercial success, gilded by critical recognition, then given new life via a musical stage adaptation. The latest on Zsazsa is that Mother Lily, no less, is planning a movie adaptation, though I don't know if it'll be based on "ze muzikal" or the comics. But certainly, it will be the ultimate accolade that will hurtle Zsazsa into the mainstream.

It's safe to say Vergara must feel a lot like Ada, the meek and retiring "*parlorista*" gay who swallows a mystical pebble and transforms into Zsazsa Zaturnnah in all her buxom power, confronting the unexpected and the unknown, including fantastic monsters, interstellar villains and a painful past.

* * *

BY THE TIME you read this, it will be too late for you to catch "Zsazsa Zaturnnah Ze Muzical" (pronunciation guide: Zshaw-zshaw Zatoor-naah), staged by Tanghalang Pilipino and "bright eyed boys, events&ideas, inc." at the spanking new Peta Theater Center last month. Unless, by some stroke of (your) luck, they decided on an extended run.

The night we watched it, everyone was leaving the theater smiling, humming tunes and rubbing their jaws which were aching because they had laughed too loudly and too often. Adding to the genial atmosphere were the cast members at the lobby, most prominently Eula Valdes in full Zsazsa costume who gamely signed autographs and posed for cell phone-bearing fans, and Wilma Doesn't who was hawking merchandise like CDs and twirling light batons that she and other "Amazonistas" wielded onstage.

To watch "Zsazsa" is to be immersed in an entire theater experience, including basking in the air of shared empowerment among the audience, not all of whom were gay, by the way. It is also to be a witness to the confident staging of material that is at once current and accessible, but also meaningful and emotionally resonant.

* * *

DIRECTOR Chris Millado places "Zsazsa" under the heading of "camp," explaining not just the material, adapted from the graphic novel by Chris Martinez with music by Vincent de Jesus, but also the approach.

Saying something is "camp," is too often conveniently used to excuse excess, lack of discipline, shoddy handling and general mediocrity. But in "Zsazsa's" case, "camp" is an apt description, a way to look at the over-the-top goings-on onstage.

As Millado writes in his "Idiota's Guide to 'Camp'," which serves as his director's notes, "*Gagagagahan…ang maaaring kapahamakan o tagumpay ng camp. Pahamak kung mahulog sa bulgar at bastos. Tagumpay kung gawing maskara ang 'gagagagahan' upang lumikha ng kahulugan. Dahil sa katangian ng 'camp' na patingkarin ang mga katangiang-sekswal at pisikal ay nagagamit din ito upang ipaliwanag na ang 'gender' or kasarian ay maaring isang palabas lamang. Dito rumarampa sa larangang pulitikal ang 'camp'* (Absurdity [Millado translates it to meaninglessness]…may be camp's downfall or triumph. It may lead to its downfall if it descends into the vulgar and tasteless. Triumph if absurdity is used as a mask to create meaning. Because of camp's ability to highlight sexuality and physicality, it can also be used to demonstrate how gender may in fact be artifice. Here is where camp is elevated to the political)."

How else but to "camp up" Ada's and Zsazsa's story, delivering meaning in the guise of outrageous antics, fervid dance routines and pop-culture references, with everybody sharing in the inside joke?

* * *

THE LATEST staging of "Zsazsa" has been mounted with a different cast, though I understand Eula Valdes, who is a pleasant and rousing revelation, also assumed the role of the super heroine in the original staging at the CCP.

Tuxqs Rutaquio as Ada is rightly low-key and retiring, and thus he gets upstaged time and again by Joey Paras as Didi, Ada's friend and Zsazsa's sidekick, who is really the sparkplug of the entire production. The role of Didi was created by the amazingly talented Ricci Chan (who first essayed the role of Angel in the local staging of "Rent") and I couldn't help wondering how he would have approached the voluble busybody Didi. Paras, a singer and performer, turns in an outrageous performance, but I thought Didi could have used some perkiness and sweetness.

The real stars of the show, though, are the direction and production, which employ clever touches, such as the use of miniature human figures to set off the "giant" toad, in place of technological marvels. The songs by De Jesus are moving and affecting, and when Ada "gets her man," the moment is tinged with sweetness and vindication. The puny human gets one over the super alter ego.

The rest is up to us

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE SUPREME Court's decision on Presidential Proclamation 1017. On hearing the first cryptic reports on radio, I thought this was another one of those win-win verdicts that try to please everyone. It is not. The Court has struck a blow for liberty and democracy.

As one of the lead petitioners against 1017, I had a personal interest in the outcome of this case. The Court categorically ruled that the police who arrested me without a warrant during a peaceful rally on Edsa last Feb. 24th violated my constitutional rights. I was hoping the Supreme Court decision would put an end to my troubles with the police. But now President Macapagal-Arroyo's subalterns are saying that I and Akbayan president Ronald Llamas were arrested not under 1017 but under BP 880. I'm afraid that if BP 880 doesn't stick, my next citation would be for rebellion. That is what they are using to immobilize the old warrior Crispin Beltran.

I first heard of 1017 from one of the plainclothes policemen who arrested me. Unable to produce a warrant when I asked for one, he blurted out the magic number: 1017. I asked him what it meant. He could not answer, but he gave me its title: "State of National Emergency." It was all that the police seemed to need to justify doing what they thought was necessary to carry out their orders.

In Camp Karingal where I was taken, I asked the police colonel who was in charge if he had read 1017. He also said no. But he was at least curious to know what it contained. One of my lawyers lent him a copy. I doubt very much, however, if a close reading of 1017 would have helped him. His superiors—Director General Arturo Lomibao, Director Vidal Querol and Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan—were already acting as if martial law was in effect. They thought 1017 freed them from all legal restraints. We might perhaps forgive their momentary intoxication. After all, their equally militaristic civilian superiors in Malacañang were telling media that day that warrantless arrests and searches, dispersal of all rallies, takeover of privately owned public utilities, etc. were permitted during the emergency.

If 1017 was textually vague, the orders were not. The crux of the problem, as the high court sees it, is that the powers that Malacañang sought to exercise under 1017 exceeded the constitutional prerogatives that were being invoked. The lawyers who drafted the proclamation might have misled the police, but the more likely reason for the lack of fit between the objective sought and the instrument chosen is that Malacañang wanted to avoid congressional review. That is why it fell short of suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or declaring martial law.

In 1017, Ms Arroyo does two things basically. First, she calls on the armed forces to suppress lawless violence. Second, she declares a state of national emergency. Are these constitutional?

The Court rules that calling out the armed forces to suppress lawless violence when necessary is a prerogative of the President under the Constitution. Therefore, 1017 is a valid exercise of this power. But, the Court also says that 1017 stretches this power when it calls on the armed forces "to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction." The President cannot direct the armed forces to "enforce obedience to all laws, even those not related to lawless violence." Furthermore, the President cannot talk about promulgating decrees because under the 1987 Constitution, the President does not have this power, not even under martial law.

PP 1017 declares a state of national emergency. But what does it do? Does it confer emergency powers on the President? The Supreme Court concedes that, in the absence of any explicit provision to the contrary, the President "could validly declare the existence of a state of national emergency even in the absence of a congressional enactment." However, the Court emphatically states that "the exercise of emergency powers, such as the taking over of privately-owned public utility or business affected with public interest… requires a delegation from Congress." Ms Arroyo and her subordinates were operating under the wrong notion that the President could exercise such powers without congressional authority.

The commander-in-chief powers of the President are awesome. The framers of our Constitution intended them to be used with restraint and only for the purpose of ensuring public safety. They were not meant to be used to stifle dissent, or to silence the critics of government. Safeguards are in place to prevent the abuse of these powers. But not even the most detailed Constitution can be protected from those who exploit its gaps and loopholes to carry out a political agenda.

"Words are deeds," says Wittgenstein. We flatter with words, we threaten with words, we deceive with words. Removed from its practical context, the text of Proclamation 1017 may mean nothing. But viewed in the light of the events and interests in which it makes its appearance, its insidious design becomes clear.

1017 is cut from the same cloth as EO 464 and CPR. It is as cleverly crafted as Ms Arroyo's "I-am-sorry" speech. It aims for maximum political effect at minimum legal risk. A friendly court could have easily upheld it, and laid the blame for its excesses on the enforcers. But the Panganiban Court saw in 1017 a dangerous subterfuge advancing stealthily under the cover of legality. The Supreme Court has struck it down. The rest is up to us.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Laughing all the way home

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I WAS IN MY FRESHMAN YEAR WHEN I FIRST ATTENDED a theater class under Prof. Amiel Leonardia. As my academic future is no longer dependent on the benevolence of his professorial pen, I am now at liberty to describe the gentleman who—in my head at least—is a curious mix of Mr. Miyagi (of "Karate Kid" fame), Sean Connery and God.

The first time I made his acquaintance, he was delivering a discourse on getting to class on time, passing the appropriate requirements, and turning off cell phones. Failure to do these musts would lead to dire consequences, he warned. He was interrupted by the ringing of a cell phone—mine. I had every intention of denying ownership of the errant gadget. In fact, I looked as astounded as everyone else, and was working my way up to looking insulted when Sir Amiel zeroed in on a guy sitting beside me. Alas, my much-neglected conscience chose that moment to make its presence known. I raised a hand, "It was mine, sir."

Sir Amiel (as we call him) stretched out a hand. I looked at it. "Your cell phone," he commanded, sounding the way God probably did when he issued the Ten Commandments on top of Mount Sinai. "Pick it up from me at one o'clock."

The next time the class met, a message alert tone echoed loudly midway through the lecture. Confident that at least mine was on silent mode, I looked around smugly for the poor unlucky dolt. Front and center of the room was Sir Amiel, guiltily grabbing for his cell phone. "My wife," he told us. He caught the look of glee on my face. He offered his cell phone. "Miss Evangelista, would you like to confiscate my cell phone?"

I smiled benevolently. "I promise to return it at one o'clock."

The other night was the 7 p.m. gala of "Ang Birheng Matimtiman," Dulaang UP's version of Niccolo Machiavelli's "Mandragola." It was directed by Amiel Leonardia. Earlier, at 6:15 p.m. that same day, I was standing on the aisle of an MRT coach racing north, holding on for dear life to a metal handrail and trying to glare at a little boy who—with his Mighty Mouse backpack—was occupying far more than his fair share of the blue plastic bench. Failing that, I concentrated my efforts on willing the train to go faster. I had horrific visions of making it to the theater at 7:01, in time to see Sir Amiel shaking his head at me and locking down the theater doors.

It will naturally be obvious that this writer is biased. This is not a review; this is written in appreciation of two hours of sheer, unadulterated enjoyment. "Matimtiman" is a comedy, which, by definition, is simply a story with a happy ending. The comic hero is Juanito Tenorio, (Romnick Sarmenta), a wealthy young bohemian fresh from Paris who falls for the grace and loveliness of Clarita Matimtiman. The saintly beauty is married to Candido Matimtiman a.k.a. Mang Dido (Jovy Peregrino), a rich fool with illusions of intelligence.

Enter Goryo, con man extraordinaire (Lex Marcos), whose plotting has Tenorio pretending to be a doctor, spouting Latin and promising the childless Mang Dido a much longed-for son. All that must be done, according to Tenorio, is to compel the virtuous Clarita to drink the Mandragola. The medicine has an unfortunate side effect, however, for the first man to sleep with Clarita will die an immediate death. The solution (which the plotters claim was exercised by the entire French royal family) is to find a random young man to sleep with Clarita and thus take on the poison. Once this is done, Mang Dido was permitted to happily sleep with his wife and produce Dido the Second. The plotters are abetted by an enterprising parish priest (Fonz Deza), Nanang Bireng, Clarita's grandchild-hungry mother (Marivic Abalos) and Uban, Tenorio's faithful servant (Shahein Abraham).

The humor is so unashamedly uniquely Pinoy, it's sometimes difficult to remember that the play was written for the 1500s by an Italian political philosopher. I mean, sure, dangling earrings and Victorian brooches may be a little hard to swallow when it comes to 19th-century fashion but, hey, I'm willing to believe anything. The play's success owes much to Jerry Respeto's hilarious translation, that has Uban (whose wild antics as storyteller cracks up the audience repeatedly) apologizing to the audience in case they might find themselves slightly less intelligent than when they entered the theater.

Deza is properly corrupt, entertainingly lecherous—and, frankly, he looks exactly the way a crooked 19th-century parish priest should look. Marcos plays con man Goryo with an artlessness that makes it ridiculously simple to believe Goryo is doing everything out of the goodness of his heart. I can see why Sarmenta used to be a teenage heartthrob—he has a smile, I must admit, that had my heart going "pitty-pat." I'm guessing it's the good looks and stereotypical roles he used to play that make it easy to overlook that he's in fact an incredibly talented actor.

Every other character in the play, however, pales in comparison to Clarita's fool of a husband. Tenorio may be the hero, but it is Peregrino who steals the show. His Mang Dido is the perfect fool: pompous, gullible and prone to mental lapses and nonsensical blabbering. The stage is his whenever he toddles into the plaza, coattail flapping and tongue hanging out. Some will argue that the acting can sometimes be slapstick, but Peregrino makes every gesture so inherently part of his character that it is impossible to imagine any other way of playing Mang Dido. The play is worth watching if only to see this theater veteran strut and stagger across the stage like a self-important rooster.

Machiavelli is best known for his philosophy of the end justifying the means. As the parish priest said in the play, "In all things, one must look to the result."

I'm told its harder to make people laugh than cry—this play has the audience laughing at the rate of one cackle a minute. Whatever the means Prof. Amiel Leonardia may have utilized in the production of this play—there are rumors that theater actors are kept chained in the basement at night to make sure they come to rehearsals on time—they are certainly justified by "Ang Birheng Matimtiman."

("And Birheng Matimtiman" will be showing on May 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan at UP Dilliman.)

* * *

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

7 myths of terrorism

THE PHILIPPINES HAS SUFFERED FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS BY THE BANdit group Abu Sayyaf and the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a group seeking to create an Islamic state in Southeast Asia.

Those staged by the Abu Sayyaf include the explosion inside a ship in Manila Bay that killed 116 people on Feb. 27, 2004, and the bombing of a bus in Makati and of crowded places in General Santos and Davao City on Feb. 14, 2005 that left at least seven dead and some 150 wounded.

JI was behind the explosion on Aug. 1, 2000 at the Jakarta residence of the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia and the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila, also in 2000. *(See JI attacks.)*

Although a number of leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and JI have been captured or killed, the two groups remain a threat because they have been able to replenish their ranks. The recruits were trained at terror camps in Mindanao.

It is said that graduates of these camps rival in number the Southeast Asians who trained in Afghanistan under al-Qaida. The graduates of the Mindanao camps are believed to have taken part in every JI-linked bombings since 2000, including the attack in Bali in 2002.

JI has 100 foreign militants hiding in Mindanao alone, according to the Singapore-based International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research. They have trained 400 to 500 fighters for new attacks

Fighting JI, the Abu Sayyaf and similar groups will require exploding the myths of terrorism.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Threats and the way forward

By Maria A. Ressa

MY IDEAS ON TERRORISM COME FROM EXPERIENCE—I'VE LIVED in Southeast Asia for more than two decades, most of that reporting for CNN. I could not have come to these views if I hadn't been at every bombing attack, at every riot. I was there at the first attacks of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in Indonesia. I met many of its leaders. I lived through it. That's my foundation and the reason I became obsessed with this topic.

I would argue that if 9/11 hadn't happened, we would've been in for a far more catastrophic attack because the network, which was exposed then, would have been left in peace to continue to plot. Sept. 11 ripped off a veneer—one of seven myths I want to discuss—a collective lie in the West built during the post-Cold war peace. That exposed what had been going on beneath the surface worldwide: how the growth of radical Islam had been hijacked and fuelled by groups like al-Qaida to build a global terrorist network. How? By co-opting homegrown groups, which have their own local agendas, but hijacking them into a global jihad.

The goal is simple: al-Qaida was after global domination, using religion as a tool. If you look at it bottom up, the groups wanted to topple their own governments, get control of their lands, set up Islamic *sharia* law, then stitch all these cells together to create one giant Islamic Caliphate.

Years before 9/11, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told me, "Osama bin Laden was able to tap different youths in different regions on different issues by pegging it all as a war between Islam and the West, but in fact, he was damaging the regional conflicts for his own agenda."

In Southeast Asia, Jemaah Islamiyah, al-Qaida's regional arm, successfully infiltrated local conflicts and co-opted groups in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

That is linked to the FIRST myth I ran into in nearly every country I reported from: Borders and nations can contain conflicts their way.

The implicit attitude is these are our conflicts. Leave us alone to deal with them. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has even institutionalized that idea into something it calls constructive engagement. All conflicts are local and can be dealt with domestically. Wrong. Because what we're seeing is that when you're talking about conflicts involving Muslim issues, there are no local conflicts.

I mentioned the SECOND myth: The post-Cold war view of peace—with one superpower, there is no more enemy.

Until 2002, the Philippines and the United States had defense structures set-up for a post-Cold war scenario—all false as 9/11 proved. Under the calm surface, there was an enemy cobbling together an infrastructure. In the months and years after that, I saw countries redefine security issues and strategies of warfare.

Once that became clear, other factors became important—trashing the THIRD myth—that military victory need not take into account culture and language ... because now language and culture have become weapons in an ideological campaign.

For the first time—members of the military and defense analysts are seeing that understanding culture is now as important as the tactics of war. A July US Marine Corps report states "we should anticipate the spread of violent jihadist methods to non-Muslim areas and the "weaponization of culture" against us in long but ambiguous campaigns that target the domestic population and our will."

There is now a growing understanding that this is not just a military campaign, that there is an ideological battle, that no one dominant culture or power can dictate the terms and that it's necessary to understand not just cultures and perspectives but also languages.

Working with CNN and traveling extensively in the region gave me a unique view: I was able to help contacts circumvent very unwieldy and ill-defined bureaucracies. Two years after 9/11, it was still difficult to even confirm information from one country to another. My contacts would call, and I could get an answer to them immediately. Some questions were simple: for example, one Filipino intel official wanted the background on an Indonesian group few outside of Sulawesi had even heard of. Another time, an Indonesian didn't have enough load in his cellphone to make a call to Malaysia so he called my local number.

That exposed a FOURTH myth: Facts exist and are shared equally. That simply isn't true. Information, depending on who has it, can inevitably be skewed to benefit the vested interests of its holder.

The agents on the ground came to me with information because they needed help, and as they pieced together more and more of the puzzle, others came because they were frustrated by the way the information was being handled or misrepresented within their bureaucracies. Still others were afraid of inaction.

Initially, I was surprised by the level of official denial—despite the knowledge on the ground. The trend is that denial lasts until a major attack—in the United States, in Indonesia, in the Philippines. But the costs are high for denial—it misleads the people and leaves Muslims vulnerable to radical ideology. This is part of the reason many Muslims still believe Osama bin Laden is a hero.

After denial, I began to see misrepresentation, largely because of vested interests—like the time one Filipino official admitted that they had discovered training camps in Mindanao, but that they didn't want the United States to know so they hid the pictures. You get the idea: everyone wants to use and interpret the information they get based on their vested interests. And that often clouds the judgment of the information.

That is part of the reason the United States is paying little attention to the upsurge of sectarian violence in Southeast Asia, failing to see the link between these local conflicts and the global jihad. The violence in the Malukus and Sulawesi in Indonesia, the southern Philippines, and perhaps southern Thailand ... all these should be cause for alarm. But it's not just the US turning a blind eye. Many of our own governments refuse to see the interconnections because admitting those links mean redefining our world views and searching for a different strategy.

That's linked to the FIFTH myth: There is only one version of reality. Different backgrounds and cultural lenses give different realities. The reality is that in our world today, no one version of reality can dominate.

That brings us to the SIXTH myth: They are top-down, monolithic entities, hierarchical rather than networked.

Jemaah Islamiyah or JI provides a good case study of how nonmonolithic, bottom-up and free flowing these organizations are—and how heavily dependent they are on personal connections.

In Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, as of mid last year, about 270 JI suspects had been arrested since 9/11. About 140 were convicted and sentenced. Yet, more recruits continue to replenish the bench and transnational connections continue to flourish.

JI reached out from Indonesia and radicalized the Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, regenerating the group of kidnappers into a full-fledged terrorist organization. The Abu Sayyaf carried out the world's worst maritime terrorist attack in February 2004—the bombing of a SuperFerry in Manila Bay that killed 116 people.

But there are also internal conflicts. As early as 2002, CIA reports said that there was a growing division between the Arab members of al-Qaida and the Indonesian members of JI who were working together in Sulawesi, Indonesia. The Indonesians thought the Arabs were too careless and focused on issues the locals didn't care too much about.

After the Bali bombings, the divide grew and splintered the Indonesian members. This time, it wasn't global versus local, but a split between the locals on the methods they use to get to their goals. And the dividing issue was the use of violence. Mainstream JI didn't want to use violence. This is a good development.

Which brings me to my SEVENTH, the last but perhaps the most important myth: The US is the hero leading the charge against global terrorism.

The United States is the world's sole superpower. True. But in this generation's war against terrorism, the US is only a supporting player and a galvanizing point. How could that be since bin Laden framed this as a war between Islam and America? Because bin Laden lied. Because the frontline in this war is within the Muslim world. It is not a fight between Islam and America—but a battle for the soul of Islam: between a radical minority and a moderate majority.

At the core of the military war is an ideological battle. That is why language, culture, and religion play such crucial roles in convincing Muslims around the world to take sides in defining Islam's future.

The irony is that the United States, at some points, has become the strongest weapon of the radicals—when its actions and policies elicit such anger in the Muslim world that even the moderates empathize with the radicals. This is part of the reason a perceived unilateral invasion of Iraq pushed anti-American sentiment around the world—and particularly in Muslim countries—to all-time highs in 2003—and why Iraq has become this generation's Afghanistan.

Once Americans and their allies realize this, and work with Muslim nations, then we can make some real progress. After all, when you look at the core conflict, it's not possible for non-Muslims to win this battle. The Muslims must resolve the core conflict by themselves.

Response

What steps should we take moving forward? There are six areas we should immediately address—with both a local and global response:

1) An ideological response to counter the world view pushed by the radicals.

2) A military and law enforcement response—this has been the first response of most nations. In general, stronger law enforcement cuts down the space for terrorists to operate.

3) Intelligence sharing: A real effort to try to cut out vested interests so we can get a realistic view of the evolving threat

4) An educational response: Making sure radical ideology is not passed on within school walls. This would cut down the number of potential new recruits,. At one point, Malaysia had cameras in mosques so they could hear what *ulamas* were saying.

5) A financial response: Our nations in the region can do much more about cutting down terrorist financing—by tracking and disrupting fund-raising operations and the flow of money through charities.

6) A legislative response—A Singapore think tank did a study of the Philippines, for example, and found that nearly 60 percent of the terrorist attacks in the past few years could have been prevented if we had an antiterror law. Why? Because those acts were committed by people who had already been detained but were later released because of the lack of legislation.

Finally, I'd recommend a three-step approach toward these problems.

1) Identify the problem, the threat in each instance. We must be aware of different lenses, pull out to broader perspectives so we can get beyond parochial interests of nation-states.

2) Communicate with the public ... with the goal of co-opting the public. Why? Because you multiply your effectiveness and reach—and you simultaneously cut down the potential pool of recruits for the radicals. Governments cannot do this alone.

3) In order to communicate with the public, you will need to learn to work with the media—both mainstream and nontraditional.

Transparency

My vested interest in talking about terrorism is to show how media can help in counterterrorism measures—how media can help in making the world safer.

One of the best examples of full transparency was when Singapore arrested 18 JI members in December 2001. The next day their pictures, case histories, evidence of links to terrorism were published not only in local papers but also in international publications. By doing that, Singapore told its people of the problem and helped prevent an ethnic, religious and human rights backlash.

The public must be told what they're facing because in the end, each nation must find the balance between trading in some civil liberties in exchange for greater security. And in a democratic country like this one, people will not give up their freedoms willingly until and unless they know exactly what they're getting in return.

(This article is a condensed version of the speech that Ressa, a former bureau chief of CNN in Jakarta, gave on April 22 at the Pacific Area Special Operations Conference, a gathering of Special Forces from 23 countries, including Indonesia and China. Ressa, now the head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs, was the only journalist allowed inside the conference in Cebu.)

Jemaah Islamiyah: Attacks and setbacks

JEMAAH ISLAMIYAH (ISLAMIC Group) is a terrorist network, which aims to create an Islamic state in Southeast Asia.

JI was formed in the early 1990s by Abu Bakar Bashir and Abdullah Sungkar, clerics who have preached a puritanical interpretation of Islam. They and other JI leaders have also formed alliances with aggressive Islamic groups, including al-Qaida, to better finance and carry out attacks, some of which are as follows:

- **Aug. 1, 2000**: An explosion tears into the front of the Jakarta residence of Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday, killing two and injuring 21, including the ambassador. In 2003, militant Abdul Jabar surrenders to Indonesian authorities and admits he drove a van packed with explosives to Caday's house and used a mobile phone to detonate them. He is sentenced to 20 years in prison on Oct. 13, 2003.
- **Sept. 13, 2000**: A car bomb blast at the Jakarta Stock Exchange kills 15 and injures about 30.
- **Dec. 30, 2000**: At least 14 are killed and about 100 injured when synchronized bombings occur at a Light Rail Transit couch in Blumentritt, Manila; Plaza Ferguson in front of the US Embassy in Manila; an abandoned gasoline station in front of Dusit Hotel in Makati; a passenger bus in Cubao, Quezon City; and the cargo handling section of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).
- **Jan. 15, 2002**: Captured in the Philippines for illegal possession of explosives is JI member Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian who admits to funding the Dec. 30 bombings. He is sentenced in April 2002 to 12 years in prison, but escapes on July 14, 2003 from Camp Crame with two suspected Abu Sayyaf members. They were later killed.
- **March 13, 2002**: Agus Dwikarna, a high-ranking JI member, is arrested for illegal possession of explosives at Naia as he is about to board a flight to Bangkok. He is later sentenced to 17 years in prison. Dwikarna has been implicated in the Dec. 30 attacks.
- **Oct. 12, 2002**: A car bomb explosion in Bali, Indonesia kills around 200 and injures more than 300, most of whom are Australian tourists. About 30 persons have been convicted for the bombings including Indonesian Amrozi. He also confessed to taking part in the bombings at the Jakarta Stock Exchange and outside Caday's house. The JI member is sentenced to death by an Indonesian court on Aug. 7, 2003.
- **Aug. 5, 2003**: Thirteen people are killed and nearly 150 are wounded when a car bomb explodes outside the American-owned JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta.
- **August 2003**: JI Operations Chief Hambali, believed to be al-Qaida's top man in Asia, is captured in southern Thailand and is handed over to the United States. He is allegedly one of the masterminds of the Bali blasts, Dec. 30 bombings and the World Trade Center attacks. He is currently imprisoned in a secret location.
- **March 3, 2005**: Bashir is convicted by an Indonesian court for conspiracy in connection with the Bali bombings. He is sentenced to a 30-month imprisonment, but is acquitted of primary charges in both the Bali and Marriott bombings.

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

More HIV carriers surfacing for free medicine – DOH

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW PROgram providing free medication for AIDS has encouraged persons with the human immuno-deficiency virus to come out, be documented and monitored by health authorities, according to the Department of Health.

Joel Atienza, coordinator of the department's HIV-AIDS program, said the National Epidemiology Center recorded 30 new HIV-positive cases in March after announcing in February that free antiretroviral treatments were available at six government hospitals.

Atienza said the 30 new cases recorded in March were the highest monthly incidence recorded by the DOH since 1984, when HIV/AIDS was a relatively new, and less understood, threat to life.

"Before, we would have 10 to 20 cases; now we have 30 cases, the highest month-to-month number of cases," Atienza told the weekly Kapihan sa Newsdesk news forum Friday.

Atienza said that while many factors were behind the increase in the number of cases recorded in March, one of them would have to be the government's offering of free HIV medicines.

"There are many factors to consider. We can say that the increase in the cases could also be attributed to improvement in recording. Added to that, we made an initial statement in February that treatment was now available for our brothers and sisters who have AIDS," Atienza said.

The antiretroviral medicines are available for free at the Regional Institute for Tropical Medicine in Taguig, the San Lazaro Hospital and the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, the Ilocos Medical Center in La Union, the Vicente Sotto Medical Center in Cebu and the Davao Medical Center.

"The DOH has been improving its recording and evaluation. And this is a result of its partnership with different stakeholders as well," said Dr. Nenet Ortega, program manager of the Remedios AIDS Foundation.

"You can go to six hospitals for counseling and testing. Also, there is a mandatory testing for migrant workers since it is a policy of the receiving countries," Ortega said.

AIDS testing, however, isn't being offered for free. "But if you're an individual responsible for your behavior, what's P150 to P300," Ortega said.

Atienza said the DOH registry had recorded 2,484 cases. Even with an estimated 11,200 cases unreported, Atienza said the Philippines remained classified in the international health community as a low-prevalence country as far as AIDS was concerned.

"But there is cause for alarm, Atienza said. He said that "people practicing high-risk behavior," such as sex workers and intravenous drug users, "are thriving," a situation worsened by lack of knowledge about the condition and the low use of condoms. *With Scott James Roxas*

Malnutrition stalks Mindanao school kids

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST 5,000 SCHOOLchildren in two Central Mindanao provinces have been found to be malnourished, officials said.

Recently, a joint project involving the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Department of Education (DepEd) was launched to address the problem.

Lerma Maranan, NFA information officer in the region, said the NFA and the DepEd were working together to distribute iron-rich rice to malnourished students in North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Maranan said most of those lacking in nutrition were found in impoverished areas in the two provinces.

The United Nation's Children Fund (Unicef) recently ranked the Philippines 9th among 10 developing nations with the most number of underweight children.

Unicef also described the country's efforts at addressing malnutrition as insufficient.

NFA Cotabato manager Fernando Nuñez said the program aimed at addressing the malnutrition problem by providing the children with iron-fortified rice. He said the children would receive a daily supply of rice for the next 90 days.

A Social Weather Stations survey recently showed that hunger was on the rise in the country. It said the hunger rate hit an all-time high of 16.9 percent in March 2006, representing some 2.8 million families that had experienced hunger in the last three months.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Ateneo renames center

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSIty's Journalism training center has been renamed the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism to reflect the regional focus of its mandate.

The change, which involved the addition of the word "Asia" to its former name, was in line with an agreement signed last Monday by Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Ateneo president, and Werner von Busch, head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Media Asia Program.

Since its inception in 2000, the center has trained 522 news media professionals from 17 Asian countries, the university said. The center offers a master's degree in journalism, diploma courses in online and broadcast journalism, and short courses in investigative reporting, media and politics and similar topics.

It is set to launch a diploma course in photojournalism by year's end with the support of World Press Photo based in the Netherlands.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 7, 2006
4th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 4:8-12**

Peter's testimony

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke up, "Leaders of the people! Elders! It is a fact that we are being examined today for a good deed done to a cripple. How was he healed? You and all the people of Israel must know that this man stands before you cured through the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean. You had him crucified, but God raised him from the dead. Jesus is the stone rejected by you the builders which has become the cornerstone. There is no salvation in anyone else, for there is no other Name given to humankind all over the world by which we may be saved."

2nd Reading: **1 John 3:1-2**

God's children

See what singular love the Father has for us: we are called children of God, and we really are. This is why the world does not know us, because it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children and what we shall be has not yet been shown. Yet when he appears in his glory, we know that we shall be like him, for then we shall see him as he is.

Gospel: **John 10:11-18**

The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. Not so the hired hand or any other person who is not the shepherd and to whom the sheep do not belong. They abandon the sheep as soon as they see the wolf coming; then the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep. This is because the hired hand works for pay and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father. Because of this I give my life for my sheep.

"I have other sheep that are not of this fold. These I have to lead as well, and they shall listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock since there is one Shepherd.

"The Father loves me because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down freely. It is mine to lay down and to take up again: this mission I received from my Father."

Commentary

The Easter power is the person, the presence of Jesus with us in the Body of Christ, his own people. This name of Jesus (meaning one who saves the people) is the crucified and risen one among us now. One of the ways we image the Risen Christ among us is the Good Shepherd who protects the sheep with his very life. God in Jesus knows us, knows to whom we belong—God and one another—and we are called to listen only to Jesus' voice and follow him alone. We too are the beloved children of God with Jesus, called to lay down our lives with him for one another and even for the sheep that aren't of the fold. Are we good sheep, beloved children, and shepherds to one another?

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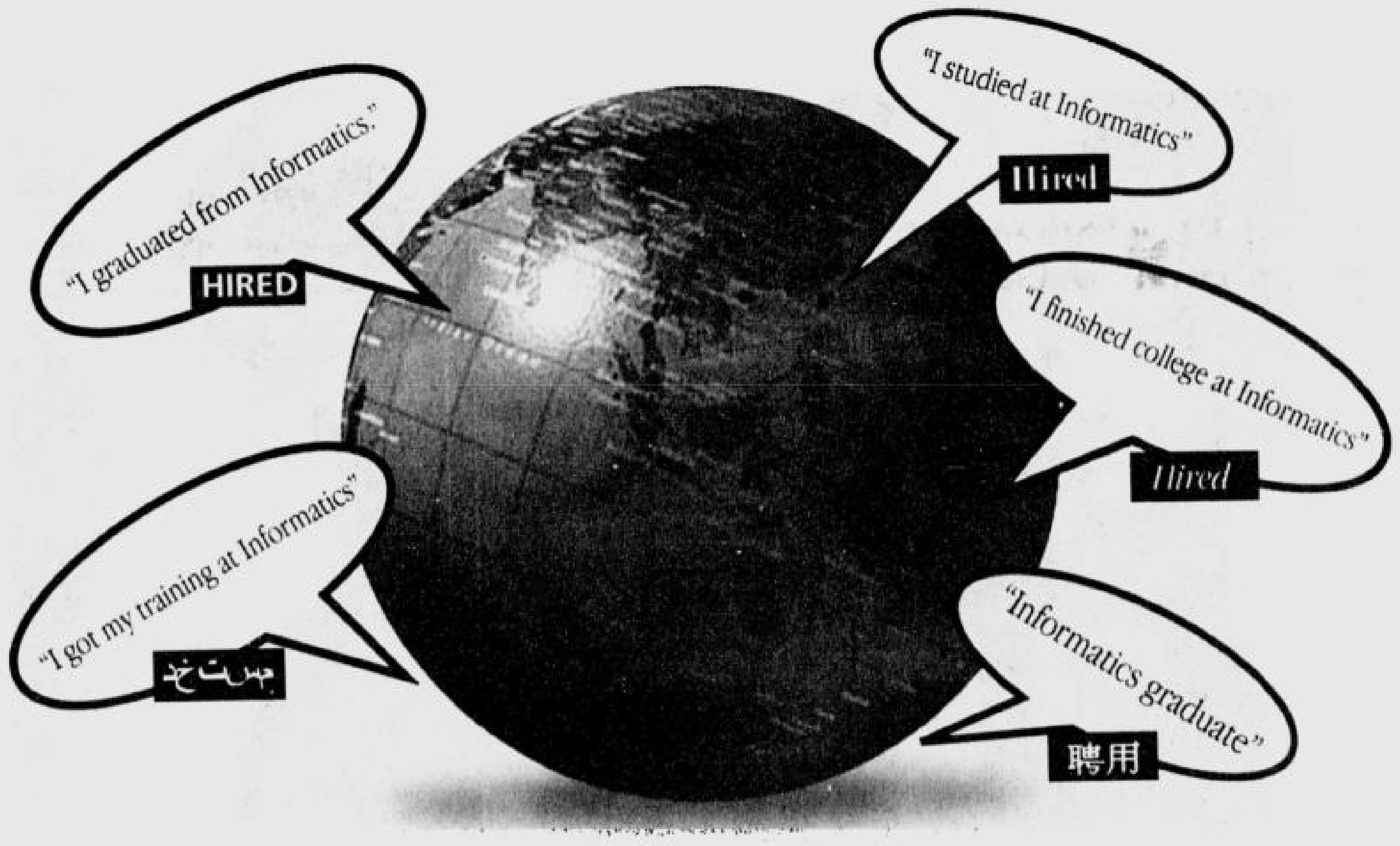
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5 suspected NPAs cry torture

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM—FIVE MEN EARlier arrested on suspicion of being New People's Army (NPA) members yesterday claimed they were physically and mentally tortured by their police and military captors.

Speaking with the INQUIRER inside their detention cell at this camp, Aristedes Sarmiento, Michael Masayes, Axel Alejandro Pinpin, Rico Ybañez and Riel Custodio related their experience while being interrogated inside several dimly lit rooms.

It was the first time the suspects were able to talk to the media after the police held them incommunicado for a week.

But of the five, only Sarmiento, Masayes and Custodio accused their captors of physically hurting them.

Both Pinpin and Ybañez said they were only "mentally tortured."

Masayes, who said he was not an NPA member but a cockfighting aficionado and a compulsive gambler, suffered the most.

"What they did to us was worse. We were treated like animals," Masayes said, his voice cracking. "They were forcing me to admit that I am an NPA commander in Cavite. But I told them that I'm just a cockfighting aficionado."

His right arm had a superficial wound while Sarmiento's right leg bore a big wound.

Both said they sustained the injuries when police and naval intelligence operatives forced them to board a van at gunpoint during their arrest in Tagaytay City on the evening of April 28.

"They held us down on the floor of the vehicle. Then they beat us with M-16s," Masayes said.

They said their captors did nothing for their wounds.

"If I wanted to drink water, they would hit my head. My head is still aching," Masayes said in near tears.

Masayes said the beatings continued while his captors were forcing him to admit he was an NPA commander.

"But I know nothing about guns and the NPA. All I know is to train and handle fighting cocks because that is my job," he said.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, Calabarzon police director, could not be reached for comment.

A few hours after they were seized, the suspects said they were brought to a dark jail facility where they were kept in one cell, except for Ybañez who was placed in solitary confinement.

By their reckoning, the five said they were brought to at least four detention centers.

They said that for three days and three nights, they were blindfolded and handcuffed at their backs.

Although they were never told where they were, they all thought that the jail was inside a Philippine Navy camp.

"We were never told of the reasons for our arrests. Our captors were just forcing us to admit that we were NPA rebels and that we were involved with the so-called destabilization plot," Pinpin said.

The five said they were finally taken from their cell and made to board at least two vehicles. It was only then that the police removed their blindfolds.

Moments later, they were presented to the media in Camp Crame after which they were again transferred to another cell.

"The room was so dark we could not even tell its color. It completely had no ventilation," Sarmiento said. "We just knew each other by voice."

After a week, the police finally allowed them to see their relatives who staged a rally in front of this camp shortly after the group was presented to a court in Tagaytay City on Friday.

The Calabarzon police had earlier denied having custody of the five.

Two more militants abducted

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Michael F. Sarcauga
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE CRACKDOWN ON MILITANTS CONTInues.

Two more leaders of militant groups were abducted in separate incidents in a span of seven days in Luzon and Mindanao.

On Friday, a leader of the party-list group Anakpawis was abducted by two armed men in Angeles City.

On April 30, a leader of the militant group Anak Bayan went missing in Zamboanga del Sur and was believed abducted.

The abduction of Benedicto Magdaong, 52, brought to 19 the cases of involuntary disappearances of members of militant groups in Central Luzon since 2005, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said on Saturday.

Magdaong is chair of the Anakpawis chapter in Barangay Marisol, one of the big urban poor communities in Angeles City.

Magdaong's wife reported seeing two men talking to her husband at around 2 a.m. in their house. They dragged him later to a waiting car.

Intelligence agent

According to his wife, Magdaong worked briefly as an intelligence operative of the National Bureau of Investigation.

In Zamboanga del Sur, Brian Macalisang, 16, a leader of Anak Bayan, disappeared while on his way from Tukuran to visit a friend in Lakewood town.

Brian's friend, however, said he failed to show up.

Susan Macalisang Amoritcha, 36, told the INQUIRER that before her son went missing, Brian had phoned her to say he was in Barangay Tubod in Lakewood. But the call went dead.

Michelle Saquin of Karapatan said the group went to the Lakewood police office where they learned of an abduction incident on the day Brian disappeared.

Van driver Christopher Pitogo Narvasa, 26, told police he was driving to Lakewood from Pagadian City when four armed men hailed him.

Narvasa said armed men forcibly took one of his male passengers and transferred him to another van.

Amoritcha said Narvasa's description of the "abducted" passenger fit her son.

But Maj. Robert Rabasio of the military's civil relations group said they had no report of an abduction in Zamboanga del Sur.

Release demanded

In another incident, Karapatan demanded the immediate release of three leftist activists arrested on April 30 at a military checkpoint in Barangay Ajos, Catanauan town in Quezon province.

Sherly Leocario, a staff member of Karapatan-Quezon chapter, assailed the military for its continuous detention of Joel de la Rosa, Armand de los Santos and Alexis Uy.

Army Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command, earlier said that De la Rosa, Uy and a certain Ariel Danao were arrested by Army soldiers after they were suspected of being New People's Army rebels.

Karapatan and other leftist groups strongly denied the three were communist guerrillas.

As this developed, the International Labor Solidarity Mission, whose members from 12 countries investigated the killings of farmer and workers' leaders and labor rights advocates in the Philippines, wants the police, military and defense officials excluded from the task force that the government will form to look into the slayings. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Jerome Aning*

Camp restrictions for all, says Senga

ZAMBOANGA CITY—RESTRICTIONS ON civilian access to certain parts of Camp Aguinaldo, the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Quezon City, were intended for the general public and not just journalists, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said during a recent visit here.

"It's not directed against a particular group but for every (visitor)," Senga said.

Members of the Defense Press Corps had raised a howl over the sudden tightening of rules on access to and movement within of Camp Aguinaldo.

In a memorandum dated April 20, AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said only members of the DPC and reporters accredited by his office were to be allowed entry to the military headquarters and only during for scheduled press briefings or media events.

"Except for the PIO and DPC offices and the grandstand, all areas inside the camp are off-limits unless there are events allowed for media coverage," Kison said.

Journalists covering Camp Aguinaldo suspected that the tightening of regulations had something to do with the military's efforts to shield the Mayuga report from the public. The report cleared four senior military officers of alleged involvement in election fraud in Mindanao during the 2004 presidential election.

Senga told reporters at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Southern Command here that the regulations had long been in existence at Camp Aguinaldo but the military had been lenient about enforcing them.

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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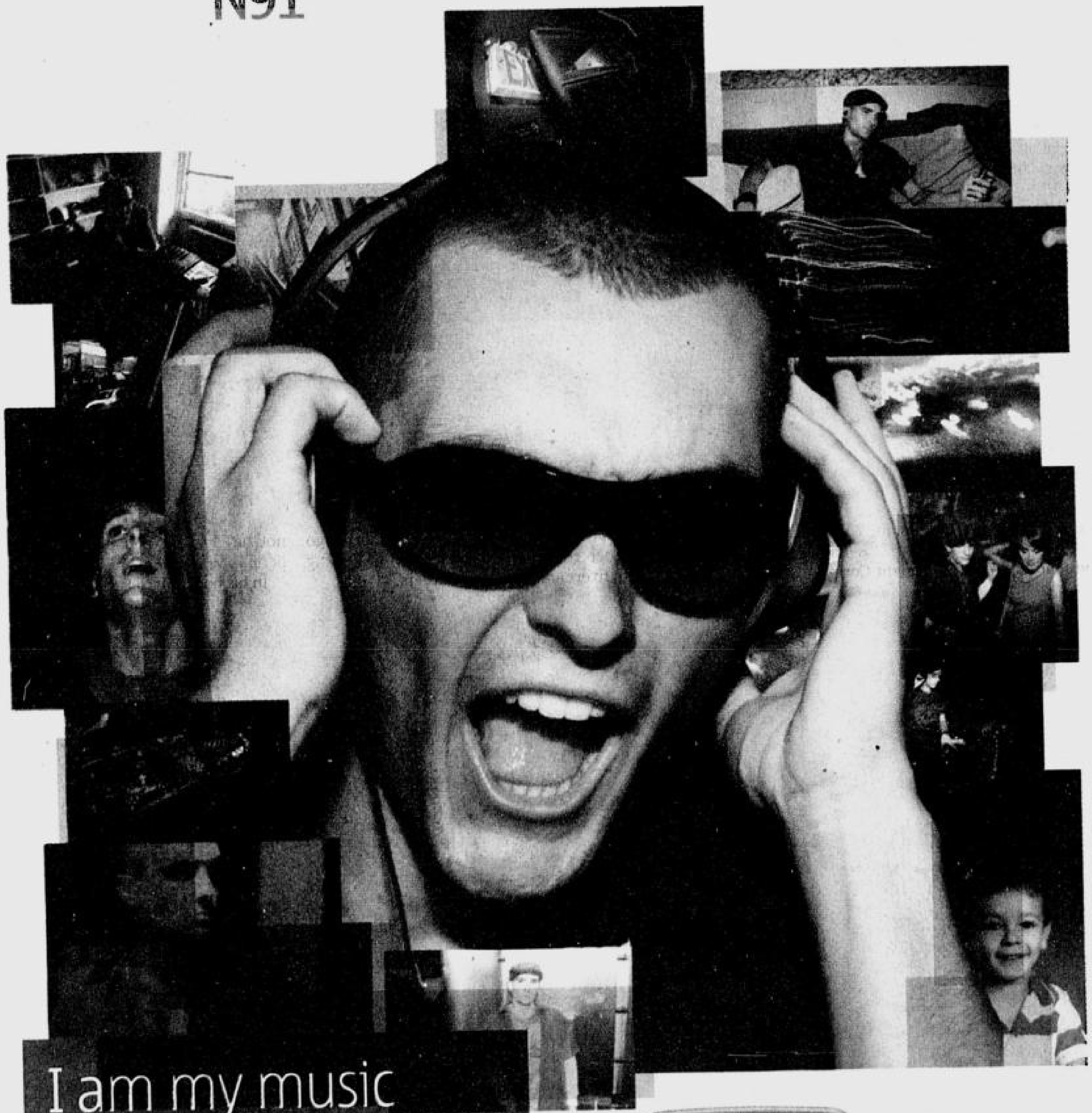

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Recto U: Fake diplomas taint name of late senator

From page A1

and adjoining streets in Quiapo and Sta. Cruz, in the city's university belt, that will sell you a diploma for any degree your heart may desire.

Printing shops, second-hand book stores, art and cross-stitch supply shops, locksmiths and watch repair stalls act as fronts for counterfeiting work stations.

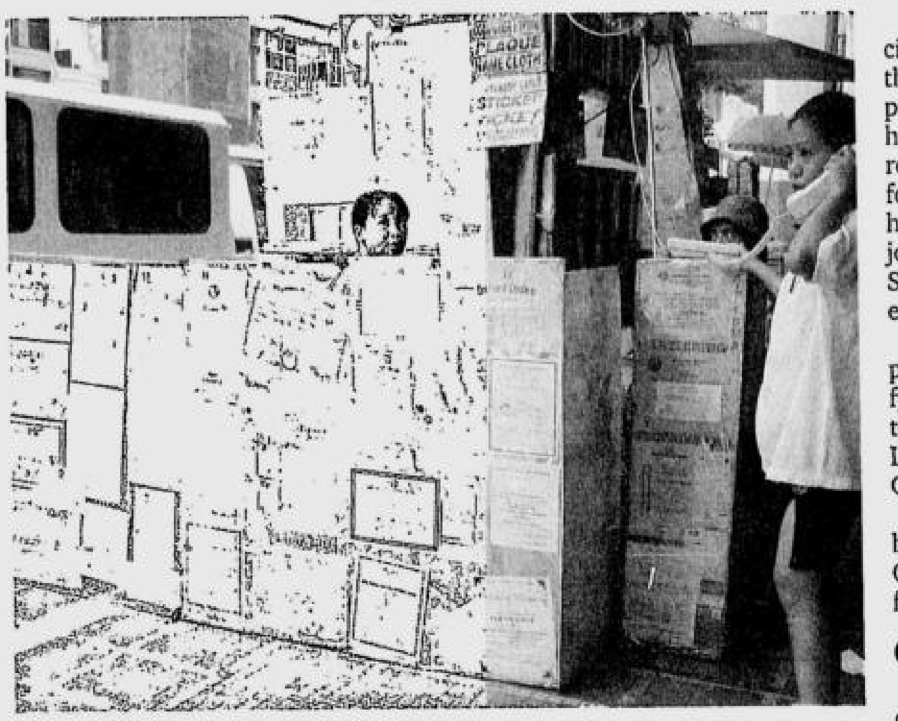
Here, Metro Manila's master forgers could vest one with any college degree and other school credentials, as well as most government documents, including passports supposedly issued by the foreign office, they may need.

Add to the list clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police, arrest warrants and detention release orders from the justice department, as well registration certificates from the Land Transportation Office.

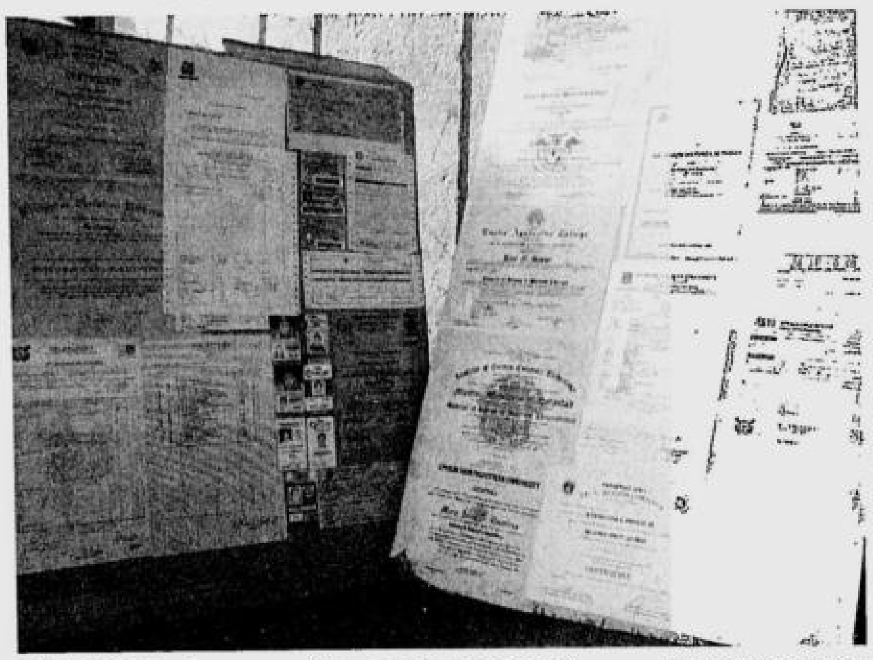
Fake diplomas cost between P250 and P1,000. Foreign school credentials cost much more, but you can always haggle.

According to some educators, Recto U has been twitting the Manila city government and the local police force for more than 50 years. Allegedly, both have always looked the other way.

Others compare the notorious strip to a "deadly cancer" eating away at the morals and values of society.



DIPLOMAS GALORE for anyone who needs them: Templates from different schools are displayed on Recto Avenue.



GRADES, IDs, clearances. You name it, they have it.

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

Tarnishing Recto

"It's sad that the younger generation is relating C.M. Recto Avenue to a commercial district that's known for falsified documents. It's really disgusting," lamented Batangas Vice Gov. Richard Recto, grandson of the man after whom the street was named.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza admitted the continued operation of Recto U was not only giving the nation's capital a bad reputation, it was also "tarnishing the illustrious name and patriotic legacy of the late Sen. Claro M. Recto."

The Batangas native was a three-term congressman, president of the Constitutional Convention, Supreme Court associate justice, education, health and public welfare commissioner, a senator and an ambassador.

In a move apparently aimed at honoring Recto, the Manila city government passed on Feb. 17, 1961 (four months after the nationalist senator's death), an ordinance renaming Marcelo Azcarraga Street—which stretches from Legarda (Sampaloc) to Del Pan (Tondo) and was a commercial center since the early 1900s—to C.M. Recto Avenue.

Urban renewal

On Feb. 28, 1995, then President Fidel V. Ramos issued Proclamation No. 661 placing portions of Recto U under the "renewal and infrastructure development program" of the Public Estates Authority.

In a 2004 directive, President Macapagal-Arroyo transferred the authority to the Home Guaranty Corp., a government-owned firm.

Asked how the city government was going to remedy the situation, Atienza said they were planning a "massive crackdown," and asked this reporter to hold off the story's publication.

The mayor also said they needed "at least six complainants to ensure effective law enforcement," stressing that they were "very serious in sending people to jail."

However, there was little evidence that previous police and NBI operations had any deterrent effects on the illegal practice.

Police protection

Sometime in February last year, Atienza ordered the Western Police District (WPD) to put an end, once and for all, to the illegal operations of Recto U which, he said, was apparently getting protection from crooked cops and barangay officials in the area.

"This is the only [logical reason] why these shops and dens are operating under the very noses of authorities without being raided. But their time is up. If our city cops cannot stop their operation, then I will personally see to it that I write 'finis' to this unlawful practice. I will apprehend these bad cops and village chiefs," Atienza was quoted as telling City Hall reporters.

Admitting that he had run out of patience, the mayor, who is on his third and last term, said his instruction to WPD would be the "last one."

But going after Recto U's notorious "document specialists" won't be a walk in the park, according to Sr. Insp. Ariel Caramuan, head of the WPD university belt detachment.

Caramuan disclosed that "some of the alleged fake diploma shop operators have managed to secure hawker's permits [from City Hall]. That complicates matters. We need to coordinate any drive with City Hall."

Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) officer in charge Saturnino Ocampo Jr. observed that the public seemed to have complacently accepted Recto U as a way of life.

Some C.M. Recto Avenue shop owners interviewed for this story professed to know nothing about the illegal trade.

Ninoy at Recto

Even the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. reportedly patronized the strip's diploma mills.

In an interview with the INQUIRER in August 2003, Dr. Romeo Taruc recounted that Aquino tried to help him get into college in the 1950s (when his late father Luis was still actively involved in the Hukbalahap movement) by making the rounds of shops along C.M. Recto Avenue that sold fake diplomas.

Aquino, then an adviser to the late President Ramon Magsaysay, tried to get around the problem of the younger Taruc not having a high school diploma.

Taruc, orphaned at 2 when his mother died, had completed only fifth grade. From the age of 14 until he turned 17, Taruc was in the mountains of Zambales and the Sierra Madre with his father.

Taking the teener along with him, Aquino went to C.M. Recto Avenue where fake diplomas were sold.

"I'll buy you a diploma so you can enrol in college," Taruc recalled Aquino telling him.

But the owner of Bohol Colleges in Manila declined to accept Taruc even if he had what seemed to be a genuine diploma.

Taruc said the owner was afraid the government would get back at him for accepting the son of a rebel.

Aquino then went to Executive Secretary Ruben Manahan and told him of Taruc's problem.

Manahan said Taruc should take the validating exams for dependents of war veterans. The battery of tests, two hours long each and taken over nine days, showed that Taruc was ready for college.

Taruc ended up studying medicine at Far Eastern University (whose president, Nicanor Reyes, was married to Josephine, sister of former President Corazon C. Aquino) where he graduated at the top of his class in 1961.

Crime

Clearly, society is partly to blame for making acceptable something that in other societies would be morally repugnant, said lawyer Elfren Meneses, head of the NBI's antifraud and computer crimes division.

Both Meneses and Ocampo pointed out that the falsification of public and private documents was a crime.

According to Articles 171 and 172 of the Revised Penal Code, the illegal trade is punishable by fines and jail terms of up to 12 years.

According to NBI and WPD old-timers, the illegal operation thrives to this day mainly because of countless prospective overseas Filipino workers in need of fake diplomas, birth and marriage certificates, among other foreign job requirements.

An undisclosed number of OFWs have been sent home and blacklisted by their foreign employers due to fake documents they had obtained from Recto U, giving the country and its labor export industry a bad name.

Old problem

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) head Rosalinda Baldoz acknowledged it was an "old problem" and one "that is not addressed fully" by government.

According to Baldoz, "local firms sending workers (with falsified papers) abroad face possible suspension of their operations," among other sanctions.

She did not say if some companies had been padlocked for violating the POEA ruling, but stressed that the agency did not tolerate the practice.

Lawyer Gonzalo Duque, POEA deputy administrator during the latter part of the Ramos administration, noted that "in most cases, it's the blue collar job-OFWs who resort to the use of fake credentials."

"Artisans, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and the like often learn their skills through informal apprenticeship training programs. Thus, in most cases, they do not have the requisite diplomas and credentials required by foreign employers. The only way for these technically trained individuals to get hired is by using fake school credentials and job references," explained Duque, who is also Speaker Jose de Venecia's special adviser on education.

Most, if not all recruitment firms for this particular labor group, were not keen on verifying the validity of the documents submitted to them, said Duque, who is also president of Lyceum-Northwestern University in Dagupan City.

In Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, an iquama or work permit prevents an OFW from engaging in any other work aside from the one specified in the document.

Change of work

But an OFW can always apply for a change of work permit. All he needs to do is present valid credentials that will prove his competency in the line of work he is applying for.

So "it is not surprising to see a truck driver assuming the post of personnel manager the next day, or a carpenter being issued a work permit intended for a fiber optic cable splicer. All it takes is a fake diploma and a little backing from the OFW's Saudi sponsor," Duque said.

Sometime in 1999, CHEd revealed that some policemen had managed to join the service using fake school credentials.

The commission disclosed the irregularity after it discovered that there were more than 700 spurious Special Orders covering thousands of "graduates" of the Philippine College of Criminology in 1997.

Countermeasures

For government personnel, falsification of any official document is considered a grave offense, an act punishable by dismissal from the service, said Civil Service Commission (CSC) chair Karina Constantino-David.

"For the first offense alone, erring personnel face dismissal," David warned.

According to the CSC head, they had "found quite a number of fake diplomas. Upon verification we file the appropriate administrative cases."

Like the CSC, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) employs similar verification procedures, among other "countermeasures," according to commission chair Leonor Rosero.

But Rosero said "many professionals still go through the legal process instead of dealing with fixers and document forgers."

The PRC had earlier entered into a memorandum of agreement with the PNP which is tasked with going after criminal groups falsifying PRC licenses and other documents.

Incidentally, the PRC headquarters is located just a few blocks from Recto U.

House resolution

The House of Representatives committee on higher and technical education, meanwhile, believes that "the prosecution of these instant diploma shops will not effectively solve the problem."

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, one of the active members of the panel, expressed her willingness to sponsor a resolution calling for a House inquiry into the illegal trade, said committee secretary Beatriz Sanga via text message.

For her part, committee chair Rep. Cynthia Villar promised to initiate hearings in aid of legislation to address the issue "with the end in view of coming up with appropriate measures to mitigate, if not obliterate, falsification of academic credentials."

In a faxed statement, Villar wondered "why this practice, while unlawful, thrives and is being patronized by a substantial number of job-seeking Filipinos."

"Somehow it exposes the underlying problems in higher education, leading to the fact that some of our countrymen have become so desperate that they have resorted to this illegal practice of using falsified documents in order to secure gainful employment abroad," she said in her statement.

Bite the bullet

Yes, desperate as in "*kapit sa patalim* (gripping the knife's blade)," observed Dennis Cunanan, deputy director general of the state-run Technology and Livelihood Research Center, or TLRC.

"Those OFWs are apparently forced by circumstances to bite the bullet. This problem is an offshoot of poverty," Cunanan said.

But the former president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines professed that "poverty is not a valid excuse to resort to the illegal practice, one that should not be tolerated."

And "rejected outright by our people," stressed Presidential Adviser on Education Mona Valisno.

"Because of its resulting damage to the moral base of our society," said the former higher education commissioner.

Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, chancellor of the Angeles University Foundation in Pampanga and a member of the consultative commission that proposed revisions to the 1987 Constitution, shared the same views.

Issues like Recto U should provoke a deeper examination of the country's educational system and national psyche as a whole, said Angeles, the former president and CEO of the government-owned Clark Development Corp.

Education is key

For former Sen. Francisco Tatad, an authentic self-examination should include both our weaknesses and strengths—"a *conditio sine qua non* (without which it could not be) for our becoming a more serious people."

In his book "Hard Facts for Hard Times (Or some truths we'd rather not talk about)," Tatad wrote, "All our institutions, values and norms are in disarray. They must be rebuilt and the nation with them."

The opposition stalwart pointed out: "We have become a lawless people... (But) the problem begins with us, not with others. We must learn to admit our own mistakes and stop blaming everyone else."

Tatad asserted "there are no quick fixes, no overnight solutions," adding that "education is the key. But we must first know who we are and what we want to become."

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Giving hope to Tawi-Tawi villagers

By Edwin O. Fernandez
and Jeoffrey Maitem
Tandubas, Tawi-Tawi

JIMMY PULAHAN, A 28-year-old seaweed farmer here, has not reached sixth grade in school.

So, he could not find a good paying job in Tawi-Tawi province other than seaweed farming.

Like other fathers, he wants his children to earn a degree and find good jobs.

"That is not impossible, that very is possible," Pulahan said in Filipino during the inauguration of the public school building in his village built through the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Social Fund Project (ASFP), a World Bank-funded program.

The ASFP's goal is to help reduce poverty and build peace in the ARMM communities through simple but meaningful projects.

Pulahan and 154 other heads of families in Kepeng village took part in building the school that would cater to their children's elementary education.

Collective labor

In fact, Pulahan was the construction supervisor when the school building worth P450,000 was built.

THIS 180-METER wooden footbridge in Kepeng was built by the locals through the ARMM Social Fund Project.
JEOFFREY MAITEM

"We labored together so this is very important for us. I am proud to be part of its construction," he said.

Barangay Kepeng is about five hours travel by boat from Bongao, Tawi-Tawi's capital town.

The village's distance from the town center would make one think that Kepeng is part of another country, especially since its Sama inhabitants go fishing in Malaysian waters and listen to Malaysian radio stations.

Pulahan said he knew how hard life is for an uneducated person so he wanted his children to go to school.

"Someday, we will leave this place and have a decent life somewhere," he told his children with tears in his eyes in front of reporters.

Like Pulahan, Felina Atatad, a 50-year-old mother of five, said she will send her 22-year-old son back to school. Her son, she said, stopped going to school after a flash flood hit the village and destroyed the old school.

THIS SCHOOL BUILDING, built by residents of Barangay Kepeng, Tandubas, Tawi-Tawi, with help from the World Bank-funded ARMM Social Fund Project, is the first of its kind in the remote village.
EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ

"Now that we have a school building again, he and his siblings could go back to school. I want them to learn so they would not end up like us," Atatad said.

ARMM social welfare secretary Ruby Sahali said the project is only one of the social development undertakings being implemented by the regional government.

Ownership feeling

"They (people) are part of it. These are not dole-out projects. These are not imposed upon them. These are what they want, therefore they have that feeling of ownership," Sahali said.

Sahali, also a native of Tawi-Tawi, said previous ARMM projects implemented in the province have failed because those were not what the people wanted.

Macben Muhamed, a former Moro rebel turned seaweeds farmer, agreed.

He said they were skeptical when they first heard about the ASFP program. "We thought it's the same with other programs that did nothing good to us," Muhamed said.

But 45 days later, he found out that the program would indeed help them overcome their basic problems.

In the nearby village of Salangan Dikih, the ASFP also built a 180-meter footbridge that links more than 70 houses located in the coastline. By tradition, most people here build their homes along the shoreline.

Bridge

"This bridge will link us to our neighbors, low tide or high tide," Karoto Abubakar, one of the villagers who helped put up the bridge, said.

"We are thankful because I learned a lot out of the projects we helped build. The footbridge was only secondary. The most important thing here was the process we underwent," Muhamed said.

"The people in the community are now united in pursuing their goal of uplifting the lifestyle of their neighbors. In fact, local officials, who have differences are helping in the implementation of the projects," Nur Anual, an official of Kepeng, said.

The people of Tandubas town are also looking forward to the future completion of a fish landing and pier head, health station and other small-scale infrastructure projects.

Of course, there are also the training courses and capability-building activities in store for them, according to Sahali.

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Filipino visitors will meet industry leaders including Tandberg Television, Harris Corporation, Panasonic, Thomson, Nokia, Scopus Network Technologies, DVB – Digital Video Broadcasting, Barco, Quantel, Qualcomm and Conax. With the positive outlook in the global entertainment and multimedia industry, organizer Singapore Exhibition Services expects more industry players to come on board in the next few months.

Adding to the show's international appeal are nine group pavilions from countries such as China, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Spain, Singapore, the UK and the USA.

This year's show will also include technology highlights that focus on the latest in internet protocol television (IPTV), broadcasting to handhelds, video on demand, personal video recording, digital audio broadcasting (DAB), computer graphics and animation, and high-definition (HD) technology.

Complementing the BroadcastAsia2006 exhibition will be a series of enriching and in-depth conference presentations and demonstrations, panel discussions and master classes.

The BroadcastAsia2006 International Conference will take place from the 19th to 22nd June and will present a range of topics that extend across the key issues facing the broadcasting industry today. The line-up of conference tracks includes High Definition (covering HDTV technology), IPTV, Broadcasting to Handhelds, Digital Audio Broadcasting, Interactive TV session, to name a few.

BroadcastAsia2006 is held alongside CommunicAsia2006 and EnterpriseIT2006.

Facts at a Glance:

Event: BroadcastAsia2006
Date: Exhibition – 20 to 23 June 2006 (Tuesday – Friday)
Conference – 19 to 22 June 2006 (Monday – Thursday)
Venue: Singapore Expo, Halls 7 & 8

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Across the NATION

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Army, rebs won't accept peace zones

LUCENA CITY—THE CALL FOR RESPECT FOR "peace zones," which has been repeatedly made by Sierra Madre natives caught in the crossfire of the government's counterinsurgency operations, has been turned down by the military and New People's Army rebels.

"What peace zones are they talking about? Any declaration of peace zone is useless. The military will never respect it anyway," communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He added that if the natives really want genuine peace, they should address Malacañang and not the NPA.

"We're more than willing to meet them (the government) for genuine peace but GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) sabotaged the negotiations," Rosal said.

He claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo had breached previous agreements that made the resumption of the peace talks nearly impossible.

With the imminent resumption of armed hostilities in Sierra Madre between government forces and communist rebels, Catholic Church members in northern Quezon called on the combatants to respect the peace zones that the Church and multisectoral groups declared in 2004.

Army Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, maintained that the government forces share the peace aspiration of the people.

"But there are terrorist groups that have been disturbing the peace and order in their aim of toppling the government. It is the military's solemn duty to defend the government and crush the terrorist movement," he said in an interview here.

When categorically asked if military forces will continue to conduct combat operations in Sierra Madre, Broso replied: "Yes. But we assure the affected communities that the troops in the field fully respect human rights."

With the statement of the military and the NPA on the futility of the community-declared-peace zones, the fragile peace situation in Mount Banahaw is now also in peril.

"If they are really pro-people, the military and the NPA should heed the call for peace of different communities. If they can't stop their fighting, at least they should wage it elsewhere," said Jay Lim, spokesperson of the Kapatirang Alay sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan (Kaakbay-Quezon), the biggest multisectoral organization in the province.

Lim lamented that the peace aspiration of Banahaw and Sierra Madre settlers has been eclipsed by the "hunger-for-enemy-blood" frame of mind of the military and the NPA.

In December last year, Kaakbay-Quezon led a multisectoral initiative that declared Banahaw as a "Zone of Ecological and Human Peace." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

QUALITY TIME
A man spends time with his daughter strolling on the beaches of world-famous Boracay Island, now hounded by controversies including one that threatens to displace members of the Ati community.

Gov wants mining probe reviewed before results released

SORSOGON CITY—SORSOGON Gov. Raul Lee has urged the government to subject the findings of the commission chaired by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, which has been investigating the effects of Lafayette mining operations in Albay, to a review by competent scientific groups before it is made public.

Lee expressed hope that the delay in the release of the final report of the commission would give them a chance to ensure that its findings were backed by scientific data and facts obtained by means of independent and credible sampling and analysis.

He suggested that the commission should not be allowed to brief media after submitting its report to the President.

"The Left and the antimining groups are a deadly combination. Unfortunately, they have been appointed in government. We must not allow them to advance their advocacies at our expense. We have seen how one story that they had leaked had started to scare people in Sorsogon from buying and eating fish again," he said.

Lee said the "first hoax" made 5,000 poor fishermen from the municipalities of Bacon, Prieto Diaz, Gubat, Barcelon and Bulusan even poorer as people stopped buying and eating fish.

"Many have completely lost their means of livelihood. We cannot afford yet another set of baseless findings that would only lead to a repeat of the fish scare and its tragic repercussions," he said.

Lee alluded to the wives and the daughters of poor fishermen who have been forced to go to Manila to look for jobs as maids, waitresses, and some who have been coaxed into club entertainment.

The first hoax, he said, was triggered by the antimining groups who alleged that Lafayette's project in Rapu-Rapu island across the sea in Albay province caused a mercury contamination of Sorsogon's coastal areas and fish.

Lee said he would do everything he can to protect his province and his constituents from another disastrous fish scare hoax and from people who have not shown any genuine concern for poor fishermen. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PNP checking reports 'jueteng' back in Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—"Jueteng" operations have "slowly resurfaced" in some areas in Central Luzon where it had been strong a year ago, the top police commander in the region said on Saturday.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, regional police director, said he was "counterchecking" reports on jueteng resurgence in coordination with the police's intelligence group.

Bataan and Pampanga are among the areas in which the illegal numbers game is being revived in recent weeks, Rafanan said.

Citing ongoing validation, he withheld information on the actual extent of the game's return or who were actually running it.

The recent attempts to resume the underground lottery are happening a year since jueteng was stopped in May 2005 on the heels of political controversies hounding the Arroyo administration.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, former Central Luzon police director, called the previous attempts as merely the work of displaced *cobradores* (collectors).

The one-year stop was the longest in the region since 1994, reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed.

But always the game resumed in the run-up to election seasons, indicating the suspected close ties between politics and jueteng, specifically its role in funding campaign kitties.

Rafanan said he had instructed police chiefs in the region's seven provinces and 11 cities to "strictly implement" the one-strike policy on all forms of illegal gambling. That policy refers to the immediate relief of police chiefs in areas where illegal games are confirmed existing.

Jueteng footholds are being reclaimed in Central Luzon at the same time that the state-sanctioned Small Town Lottery (STL) is being run.

Romualdo Quiñones, chief of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's STL project management office in Manila, said STL is regularly played now in Angeles City through the Lake Tahoe Gaming Corp. and in Bataan under the Sunset Bay Research and Marketing Group.

The game is now on its test run in Bulacan by the Diamond Gaming and Research Center Corp., the local license holder.

Sun Cove Corp. and Novo Mega Gaming Corp. have not begun the trial phase in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija, respectively, Quiñones said on Saturday.

Rafanan said the Central Luzon police are not monitoring any STL operations in the region because they have not signed any memorandum of agreement with any of the license holders pertaining to rules and regulations. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

STL PROPONENT Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn with anti-jueteng convert Michaelangelo Zuce in a recent press conference to announce plans to put a stop to "jueteng." PDI PHOTO

LYN RILLON

CARPENTER
President Arroyo tries her hand in construction, installing a pre-fabricated steel frame into a row house project during her visit to the San Pio village in Talisay, Cebu recently.

Once allies of GMA turn foes of gov't backing of Cha-cha

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—FROM FORMER allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, advocates of federalism here are now her critics as they rejected the campaign to amend the Constitution through the government-sponsored signature campaign called people's initiative.

Some members of the Citizens Movement for Federal Philippines (CMFP) are seeking the ouster of Ms Arroyo. Others denounced the proposal to shift to a parliamentary form of government through the signature campaign because it would only benefit those in power. Still others wanted the government to focus on voters' education.

Yet, only a year ago, they have praised Ms Arroyo for favoring federalism to the extent of including it in her 2004 election platform and her State of the Nation Address.

CMFP leaders here are now busy meeting with students and speaking on radio criticizing the signature campaign.

CMFP was seeking changes in the 1987 Constitution through a constitutional convention and has been campaigning against the constituent assembly or people's initiative as ways of changing the Constitution.

The constitutional convention is composed of delegates elected at large. The constituent assembly is Congress convened for the purpose of changing the Constitution.

"We are not supporting the people's initiative. ...we will be doing voter's education to inform the people of the real issues," said Emmanuel Areôo of the Iloilo Coalition of Non-Government and Development Organizations (Iloilo-Code).

CMFP said that as a plebiscite looms, many people have not understood the issues just as many had signed their names during the massive signature drive where they were asked to answer yes or no to a shift from a bicameral-presidential system to a unicameral-parliamentary, and agree to unspecified transitory provisions.

Reports said the signature drive was hastily done because barangay officials were given a quota of 3 percent per district and 12 percent nationwide, or about 8.5 million voters, which was required by law for the people's initiative to prosper.

In Iloilo City for example, some signed because they thought it was just an attendance sheet for a community assembly or a signature drive for PhilHealth insurance. Many admitted that they did not understand the issues at all.

CMFP leaders here admit their rejection of people's initiative may confuse some people because they were earlier in the forefront of the debate for changing the Constitution and a shift to a federal parliamentary form of government. But as the government-sponsored initiative only favors a parliamentary system and forgot federalism, they are left with no choice but reject it, said Areôo.

Tobacco losses seen to reach ₱1B mark

DANCERS take part in the Tobacco Festival in Ilocos Sur recently, unaware of the problems that the industry was suffering. PDI PHOTO

CANDON CITY—Tobacco farmers here harvested 20 million kilograms during the February to March harvest season but the production was below the usual 50 million kg of Virginia tobacco that they harvest in a year.

Citing latest National Tobacco Administration figures, Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson said this production loss could reach P1 billion. A kilogram of semi-processed Virginia tobacco sells for P40.

"The extent of the loss could even affect the [peso-dollar] exchange rate. The cigarette manufacturing companies would be importing a lot," Singson said.

Cigarette manufacturers like Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris Philippines International would have to import from China, the United States and South Africa as a result of the drop in local production of Virginia tobacco, he said.

The US Department of Agriculture reported that Filipinos smoke about 75 billion cigarette sticks a year, which is 3 percent of the total cigarette consumption in East Asia and Pacific.

Singson said the usual cost of imported tobacco is about $5 (P257.3) to $6 (P308.76) a kg.

Strong rains in late January when tobacco plants were already maturing caused the plants to wilt.

Initial reports from the NTA in February set the loss at P500 million.

The Ilocos region accounts for 80 percent of the total Virginia tobacco production in the country, the NTA said.

Singson is asking the government to help the affected tobacco farmers in the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley. He said about 500,000 farmers are involved in tobacco production.

Tobacco is planted once a year and the usual harvest starts in February.

During the Tobacco Festival here last month, Singson facilitated a P50-million loan agreement with the Land Bank of the Philippines for tobacco farmers in the second district of Ilocos Sur. He said the money would be used to buy seeds for the next planting season.

Singson said the loan could be used also for dependents of tobacco-producing families who wanted to go abroad to seek employment. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Rodel Mangulabnan
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Val Plata

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Ladies' Division Champion wins a trip to LPGA World Match Play in New Jersey, USA

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MAKATI CITY

Int'l group sees systematic killing of leftists

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE INTERnational Labor Solidarity Mission yesterday said it believes there is an ongoing systematic campaign to liquidate National Federation of Sugar Workers' organizers, terrorize its members and scare people away from the NFSW and other militant and progressive organizations in Negros Occidental. *(See related story on Page A18)*

The ILSM, in its report presented to the media here, also linked the pro-government Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade to some of the killings, and found the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo culpable for not stopping the slaying of militants.

"We find the Arroyo government culpable for human rights violations inasmuch as it deliberately creates the conditions for these political killings to occur, both by omission and by commission," the ILSM members said in their report.

The team composed of delegates from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand and the Philippines have been in Negros Occidental this week to investigate the killing of Edwin Bargamento, Mario Fernandez and Manuel Batolino, the abduction of Perseus Geagoni, and the continuing harassment experienced by NFSW organizers, its report said.

These atrocities in Negros appear similar in pattern to atrocities suffered by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakpawis party-list group, Bayan Muna party-list group, Bayan, Karapatan and other legal progressive organizations not only in Negros but in other regions as well, it said.

The ILSM report noted that the atrocities were occurring alongside the Arroyo administration's constant branding of these organizations as communist fronts, therefore enemies of the state.

The ILSM members called on the government to stop the "killings and political repression," and on the public and the international community to exert pressure to shatter the "prevailing culture of impunity and policy of coddling human rights violators."

The ILSM report said the killing of the NFSW organizers were well-planned and pre-meditated.

ROUNDUP

Top communists charged

BACOLOD CITY—Police have filed robbery-in-band charges against several top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army in connection with the raid on a police outpost in an upland area of Escalante City on March 19. CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP-Negros leader and priest-turned-rebel Frank Fernandez and 30 other unidentified rebels were named respondents in the complaint filed by the Negros Occidental police at the Escalante Prosecutor's Office, said Negros Occidental police director Senior Supt. Charles Calima. The NPA guerrillas who raided the police outpost on March 19 took with them eight firearms, including an M-60 machine gun.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Farmers yield firearms

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

TIAONG, Quezon—Police arrested two farmers carrying two improvised .38 cal. revolvers on Thursday. A report said policemen manning a checkpoint in the intersection of Maharlika Highway and a road in Barangay Lusacan spotted suspects Teodoro Pana of San Antonio, Quezon and Edgardo Perez of Tiaong aboard a Honda motorcycle without a license plate. When searched, the police found the suspects carrying the illegal firearms. The suspects were detained at the municipal jail and will face charges of illegal possession of firearms.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 minors rescued in Daet

LEGAZPI CITY—Four minors allegedly engaged in prostitution in videoke bars in Daet, Camarines Norte were rescued in a raid by the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the police last April 29. Two of the raided video bars were found to employ minors. Labor regional director Alex Maraan said they would conduct more raids this year to stop child prostitution in Bicol.

Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village dad shot dead

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Almost six months after surviving an assassination attempt, a village council official was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding men here on May 1, police said. Danilo Macatuggal, a barangay secretary, was driving his tractor home when he was attacked by the two men. Police said the suspects could be the same men who ambushed Macatuggal and his brother in the village on Oct. 11 last year. The brothers survived that attack.

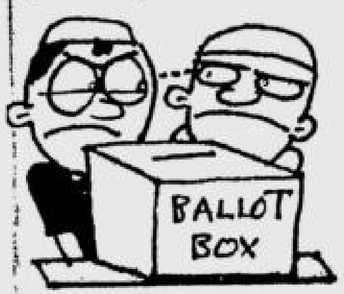
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

4 car thieves slain

STA. MARIA, Bulacan—Four suspected car thieves were killed in a shootout with members of the police's Traffic Management Group in Barangay Bagbaguin here on Wednesday. Reports from the Sta. Maria police said the TMG men spotted the suspects aboard a red Toyota Corolla car along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, about 25 km from here, and started to chase them. When the suspects reached Barangay Bagbaguin at about 3:30 a.m., they started shooting the policemen pursuing them. Sta. Maria police investigator SPO1 Noli Majan identified the slain suspects as Cris Orsal, Ronnie Fernando, Jimbo Guigue and Rolando Catalia, said to be members of the Abuyog Gang. Police recovered two M-16 Armalite rifles and two .38 cal. revolvers from the suspects.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Special polls in Maguindanao



COTABATO CITY—A special election for the mayoral post of Kabuntalan, Maguindanao was held yesterday to resolve the political tug-of-war between Mike Fermin and Alimudin Makakua, the Commission on Elections said. It was the second of such election in Kabuntalan. The first was held on July 28, 2004, when Makakua questioned Fermin's declaration as winner of the May 2004 polls. During the first special elections, Makakua was declared the rightful mayor but Fermin's lawyers argued that the proclamation was erroneous because voters from Barangay Guiawa were excluded. The Comelec agreed and scheduled the second special balloting to involve 264 voters of Barangay Guiawa. The result of this special balloting will determine the true winner of the 2004 mayoral election.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

CATCH OF THE DAY

REM ZAMORA

It's a daily sight in General Santos City—fishermen hauling their catch to the city's fish port, which boasts of tuna quality that exceeds local and international standards.

Subic officials step up drive vs smuggling of oil in freeport

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE antismuggling task force here has stepped up its operations against oil smuggling and started conducting surprise inspections of facilities of oil companies based in this freeport.

"Our spot inspections will make sure that oil coming in and out of the freeport is properly accounted for," said Jose Calimlim, chief of the Task Force Subic.

On Wednesday, Calimlim made a fuel inventory and checked the oil stock of PTT Oil Co., one of the biggest oil firms here.

He inspected a storage tank and found it to contain 373,000 barrels of oil that PTT imported in March.

Calimlim said there had been large-scale technical smuggling of fuel here in the past years.

"Oil smuggling occurs when they declare aviation gas as diesel in order to pay lower taxes," he said.

During the inspection of PTT, Calimlim discovered that there was a small discrepancy, measured in a few barrels, in the stock.

"But it could be explained by evaporation due to high temperatures and possibly a little spillage," he said.

He said they have yet to record large-scale oil smuggling here.

Joy Alvarado, deputy administrator of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said the amount of oil they found in the storage tank of PTT conformed to the amount the company declared when it applied for importation permits.

"The small discrepancy was not large enough to support allegations of smuggling," Alvarado said.

Jin Sukanya, PTT comptroller, welcomed the audit of their oil stock and said they would support the task force's efforts to curb oil smuggling in the freeport.

Calimlim said they would continue to conduct spot inspections in more than 30 oil tanks here to ensure that the government would collect proper taxes from oil imports. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SUBIC officials inspect a petroleum tank of a gasoline supplier in Subic in their efforts to curb oil smuggling in the freeport. The officials found no irregularity in the tank, however. PHOTO FROM SBMA

2 justices relate whys, hows of SC mind, ruling

BAGUIO CITY—STRESSING THE role of the judiciary in today's turbulent times, two Supreme Court justices this week gave separate views on the high court's responsibility in the search for truth.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban likened the judiciary to the media in terms of the quest for truth and information while Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing dealt with the crucial role of the SC's "judicial privilege."

The SC held summer sessions in this city until May 4.

Court views

The views of Panganiban and Quisumbing were seen to reflect the thinking of the high court's justices who had been confronted with controversial legal issues that hounded the Arroyo administration.

After Holy Week, the SC upheld Executive Order 420 which called for a unified national ID system.

Later, it struck down as unconstitutional portions of Executive Order 464 and voided the government's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) to protest rallies.

EO 464 prevented executive and military officials from appearing at congressional inquiries in aid of legislation without the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The CPR had been used by lawmen to dispersing rallies against the administration.

Upheld law

The high court, though, sustained the legality of Batas Pambansa 880 which provided the guidelines in the conduct of rallies and the acquisition of rally permits.

Panganiban said the courts and media have a common purpose: the search for truth.

"But the press and the courts are actually powerless," he said. "We are followed by the people because we are correct and the media is believed by the people because what you report is true."

"But we differ in approaches," he said.

Panganiban said media reports the news as truth as soon as possible while the court needs more time to deliberate on the legal issues to properly arrive at the truth.

"We have a commonality as the country moves towards transparency," he said.

Because of this, he said, "the high court is no longer a fortress the way it was regarded in the ancient times when justices were treated as demigods."

Quisumbing said the courts have "judicial privilege," referring to its power to intervene in a case or controversy and later resolve the issue.

Collateral damage

In the exercise of this privilege, he said, "some parties can be injured" since the decisions could be harmful to one of the parties.

Both justices reacted to criticisms that the high court is taking much time to decide controversial issues affecting the Arroyo administration.

Panganiban said the SC deliberates carefully on legal issues that confront it and takes time to issue rulings because it was a collegial body.

He said the high court should not be faulted for taking its time in deciding on crucial issues.

Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Negros mayors won't go board's way, welcome STL in towns

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE LEAGUE of Municipalities of the Philippines-Negros Occidental chapter has passed a resolution inviting the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to conduct the Small Town Lottery (STL) project in the 19 municipalities of the province.

The municipal mayors unanimously passed Resolution No. 1 just days after the Negros Occidental provincial board also unanimously adopted on Wednesday a resolution opposing the entry of STL in the province.

The provincial board passed the resolution to belie an announcement made in Cebu by William Medici, PCSO's Visayas-Mindanao manager, that the Negros Occidental provincial board had invited STL to operate in the province.

Medici later clarified that he presumed that the provincial board has adopted a resolution favoring STL because the PCSO board of directors has already approved the operation of STL in Negros Occidental.

He explained the PCSO would not grant permit for STL to operate in a certain city or province unless the local legislative body adopts a resolution "inviting" STL to operate in its area of jurisdiction.

The LMP-Negros Occidental resolution "inviting" STL, signed by league president Mayor Manuel Escalante III of Manapla, was transmitted to Gov. Joseph Marañon on Friday.

The LMP-Negros Occidental said they decided to invite the operation of STL after a "thorough consideration of the benefits and advantages it could bring to the general populace and also the local government of a municipality to provide the much-needed income for its residents and revenue to the LGU (local government unit)."

The operation of the STL under government control and supervision ensures equitable income for all sectors concerned in terms of regular source on a day-to-day basis and even on a long-term support system, the resolution further said.

The mayors added that the earlier STL is implemented, "the better it will be for the countless number of our people who are in dire need of a legal means to derive gainful income."

"Our resolution is an invitation for the PCSO to make proposals on the STL, it is up to the individual mayors to decided if they will allow STL in their areas," Escalante told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Marañon said the mayors have asked him to endorse their resolution but he has not done so because he is waiting for the stand of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

The League of Provinces wants the PCSO to review and revise the STL rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code, he said.

Marañon said PCSO representatives are scheduled to attend the next League of Provinces board meeting to discuss the governors' concerns about STL.

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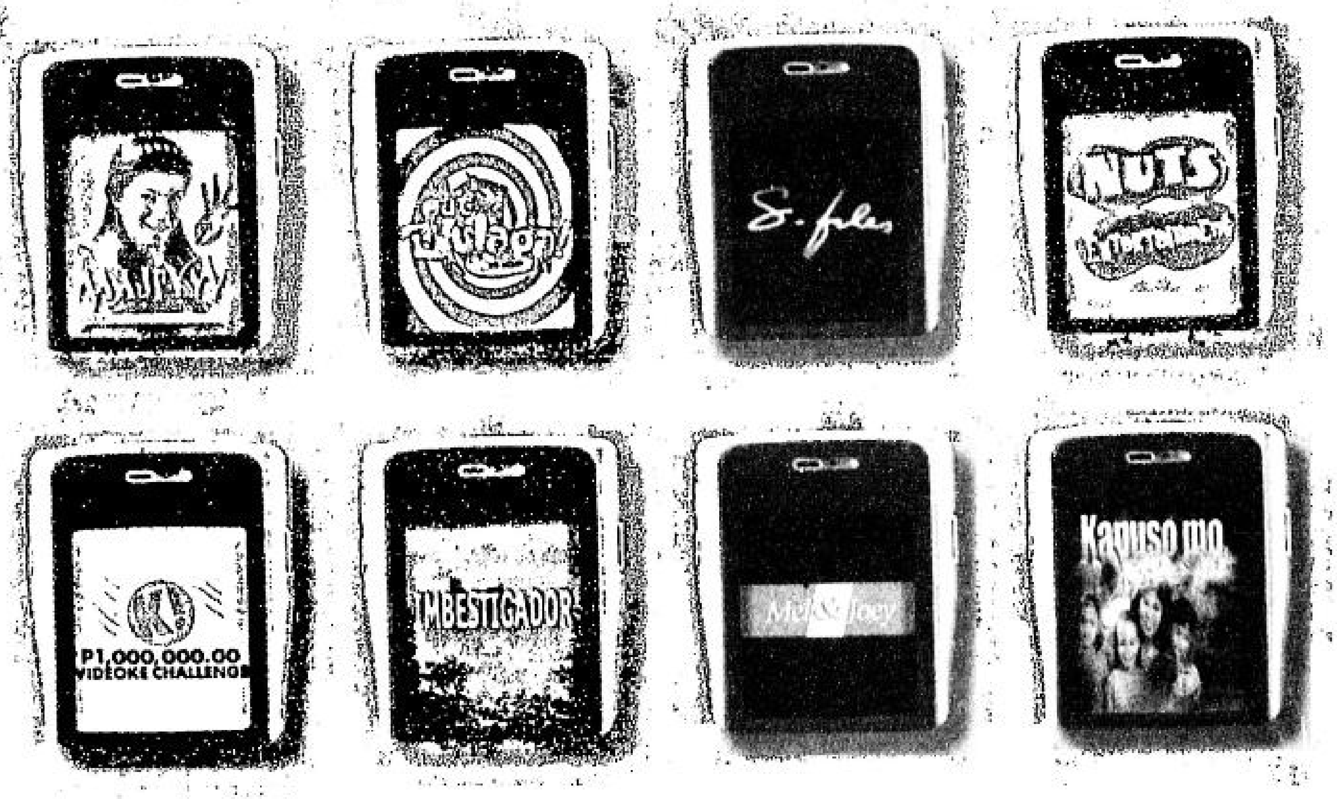

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Children from Manila's underbelly kick up a storm in this unique dance school

From a handful of promising dancers, center now has 200 scholars

By Tina G. Santos

WHO SAYS DANCE LESSONS are only for the rich?

In the City of Manila, around 200 children from depressed communities—some so poor that they have been forced to drop out of school—have been lured into the world of dance through the beauty of movement and the allure of music.

The aspiring dancers, mostly girls aged seven to 14, are scholars of the Manila Dance and Cultural Arts Center, where they are trained to be light and graceful on their feet.

The center was set up six years ago after Mayor Lito Atienza, an alumni of the world-famous Bayanihan dance group, expressed his desire to involve the youth, particularly the poor, in the city's social and cultural development.

TWO of the Manila City government's dance scholars during rehearsal. RUDY ESPERAS

AT THE MANILA Dance and Cultural Arts Center, children aged seven to 14 are trained to be light and graceful on their feet. RUDY ESPERAS

Performing arts program

At about the same time, renowned dance masters Tony Fabella, Eddie Elejar and Luther Perez were thinking of implementing a performing arts program for gifted but underprivileged children.

"We all know that poverty alleviation must begin at the level of the physical body, accordingly, food and shelter. However, art and culture feed the mind and spirit, the faculties that can inspire the poor to try to get out of their impoverished environment," Fabella said.

On top of this, Fabella said it was quite frustrating to see all that raw talent in children go to waste just because they had no money for training.

"Many of them have potentials but there was really very little opportunity for them to hone their dancing skills because it is quite expensive to enroll in dance classes," he added.

The three—Fabella, Elejar and Perez—then began holding auditions in the city's barangays and public schools.

Priority was given to children who showed promise but did not have any background in dance.

Raw talent

"We wanted raw talents because it's better to teach those who have absolutely no training at all. And definitely, if you had undergone training, let's say at seven years old, you don't belong to the poor community," Fabella said.

The dance center was first set up at the Aurora Quezon Elementary School in San Andres. Just recently, the center was moved to a bigger, two-story dance studio inside the premises of the Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard.

From a handful of promising young dancers, the center now has 200 "scholars" undergoing training in classical ballet, tap, jazz, modern and folk dance.

The children's first performances were scheduled in schools, public parks and plazas. As the training went on, Fabella noted a dramatic improvement in his students' skills.

The best they can be

"The kids were getting better with each performance. That's the beauty with kids, they don't set limits on what they can achieve. With the proper motivation, they can strive to be the best in what they do," the proud mentor added.

The members of the dance center have since performed outside the country, more recently during the I-Lan International Children's Folklore and Folkgame Festival, Taiwan's largest annual tourist festival, where they shone along with dancers from 25 other countries.

"Despite their young age and

CHILDREN/ A26

WHAT'S INSIDE

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▪ 5 men arrested for stealing LPG from former national police chief Edgar Aglipay / A26
▪ Cop killed in ambush in Quezon City / A26
▪ NBI agents seize P1.5-M fake toner for printers / A26

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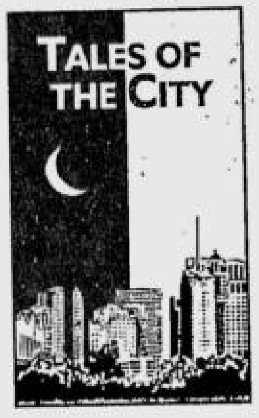
SUN CELLULAR
Everything Important Is Under the Sun

Rommel Apostol's disability has not stopped him from being the best he can be

After graduating cum laude, this active athlete, computer whiz continues to look for more challenges

By Nancy C. Carvajal



HIS BODY MAY BE CONFINED to a wheelchair but his spirit and will take him anywhere he wants to.

At the age of three, Rommel Apostol was stricken ill with polio, leaving his legs weak and useless. He has not walked since.

Now 21, he said that his disability has not prevented him from living as normal a life as possible, including being in a relationship with the opposite sex.

"I have accepted my condition and it has not stopped me from trying to do things normal people do," Apostol told the INQUIRER.

With honors

The young man works at the Valenzuela City Information Technology Department where he is the chief of the programming section. Apostol is a graduate of the AMA Computer College where he graduated *cum laude* with a degree in Computer Science. On weekends, he plays basketball, lawn and table tennis. He also has a girlfriend, Rain, who works in Saudi Arabia.

Growing up, Apostol said that there were days when he felt depressed, not because of his condition, but because of the way some people looked down on him.

"I pity them for their ignorance because they could also be disabled by sickness like I was or by aging," he pointed out.

Apostol added that all people have their own disability. "Mine is physical disability. Other people, on the other hand, may be handicapped by ignorance, inexperience and immaturity."

His wheelchair, however, has not slowed him down one bit. "My disability has driven me to challenge myself to finish my studies and make worthwhile the efforts of people who love and help me," he said.

Apostol said he was grateful to his parents who, despite their being poor, went the extra mile to bring him up as normally as possible.

"They would carry me to school so that I could attend class," he said.

At an early age, the young Apostol already showed signs of independence and a determination to be the best that he could be despite his handicap.

As a boy, he refused to ask for help in moving around, preferring to crawl instead of being carried around.

Young achiever

He graduated at the top of his class in both elementary and high school. Along the way, he also won several spelling bee contests.

Apostol said he also dabbled in extracurricular activities in high school. "I played basketball, lawn and table tennis and was even an officer of the Citizen's Army Training course," he told the INQUIRER.

Upon graduation, Apostol went to AMA Computer College on a scholarship grant from the Department of Science and Technology and Sherwin Gatchalian, now mayor of Valenzuela City.

In college, he was elected student council president, a post which he held from 2002 to 2004.

It was also during this time that he experienced falling in love for the first time.

"All the pain that I went through earlier in my life was erased by my relationship with Rain," Apostol said.

ROMMEL Apostol: Next housemate on Pinoy Big Brother? RANDY HORMILLOSA

He was also involved with another girl at one time and in both instances, it was the girl's parents who had misgivings about the relationship instead of the parties involved.

"Maybe they were scared that their daughters would end up providing for me instead of the other way around," Apostol joked.

Right now, he said that he is earning enough although he would like to make more money to help his parents.

"I feel like I am more a financially challenged than physically disabled person," Apostol said with a smile.

Given the chance, Apostol said he would like to work in Saudi Arabia so that he could be with Rain who has migrated there.

One more goal

He also has another goal: Show "normal" people that persons with disabilities like himself can be self-reliant and should not be discriminated against. "I believe that people with disabilities should be given equal opportunities in accessibility, education, income maintenance and social security."

And the best way Apostol thinks he can put the message across is by appearing on national TV, specifically on a reality TV program like ABS-CBN's Pinoy Big Brother.

"I intend to audition for the next edition of Pinoy Big Brother to show that people like me can do things normal people do. I would like to show televiewers that having a disability is not a hindrance," Apostol added.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS
Two boys work off their excess energy by engaging in a tug of war, unmindful of the baking summer heat in Barangay Botocan, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Policeman shot dead in QC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A POLICE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group office in Region I was shot dead at a gasoline station in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

Supt. Procopio Lipana, chief of the Quezon City Police District Criminal and Investigation Division, identified the slain policeman as Insp. Danilo San Miguel Sarmiento, 50, of the Alido Subdivision in Malolos, Bulacan.

Lipana said the police officer was killed in a gas station at the corner of 20th Avenue and P. Tuazon Boulevard at around 1:40 a.m.

Sarmiento was on board his Toyota Revo with license plate XCJ 453, waiting for his turn at the gasoline pump, when two men on board a motorcycle stopped in front of the van.

According to Lipana, one of the men alighted from the motorcycle and walked toward the policeman, while the other stayed seated on the motorcycle with its engine running.

The first suspect went up to Sarmiento and then shot him several times, hitting him in the face, neck and chest, Lipana added. The suspect then ran back to the motorcycle and with his companion, took off toward Edsa.

Another policeman, Insp. Rosselle Reyel, who was seated beside Sarmiento in the van, was not harmed. Reyel brought the wounded policeman to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Project 4 but Sarmiento died at 3:05 a.m., Lipana said.

"A joint investigation is now being conducted by our investigators and the CIDG regarding the ambush," Supt. James Brillantes, chief of the intelligence division of the QCPD, said.

Fake toner products confiscated

By Tina G. Santos

AROUND P1.5 MILLION WORTH of fake toner cartridges were seized by National Bureau of Investigation agents when they raided several branches of a computer shop in Metro Manila last Wednesday.

NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division chief Jose Yap said the raids were prompted by a complaint from international company Hewlett Packard (HP) which was represented by Bengzon, Negre & Untalan Intellectual Property Attorneys.

Yap said HP sought the bureau's help in investigating C-COMD Computer Printer Tech Corp. for allegedly selling fake HP toner cartridges.

Armed with search warrants issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., agents raided on Wednesday morning C-COMD's branches in Zapote Road, Las Pinas; Kabihasnan, Parañaque City; and Sta. Cruz, Manila.

They confiscated some 347 pieces of refilled and repackaged toner cartridges which were allegedly being passed off as original HP products.

5 men nabbed for stealing gas from Aglipay

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THEY MESSED WITH THE wrong guy.

Five men were arrested in Pasig City on Friday night after they were caught in the act of pilfering liquefied petroleum gas from a truck owned by former Philippine National Police chief Edgardo Aglipay.

The suspects were identified as Arnel Agustin, Santi Laguran, Joel Medina, Chi-Chi Pineda, and Danny Lubos, all residents of Quezon City.

Senior Insp. Hansel Marantan of the Traffic Management Group-Task Force Limbas said a concerned citizen called up the police at a few minutes past 8 p.m. Friday.

The caller told the police that five men were at the back of the MC Depot on Meralco Avenue in Barangay Ugong, transferring LPG from Aglipay's bullet tank truck to another truck.

Dangerous

"We were alarmed because transferring LPG, a flammable substance, in a public place is very hazardous," Marantan told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Marantan said he immediately called up the gasoline station where he knew Aglipay's tank was usually parked. But the tank was not there.

"The Global Positioning System installed in the vehicle did not send signals to our locator," the police official said.

Marantan said the driver of Aglipay's truck could have left the vehicle at the back of the MC Depot.

Members of Task Force Limbas went to the scene and even caught the suspects on camera siphoning a still undetermined quantity of LPG from the retired general's bullet tank truck.

Truck came from Subic?

Initial investigation revealed that the truck used by the five men was connected to EMME Subic Transport Corp.

"But we are still verifying that information," Marantan said.

The suspects were later brought to Camp Crame where they will be charged with theft and violating Batas Pambansa 33, a special law on pilferage.

Children from Manila's underbelly kick up a storm ...

From page A25

little experience, compared to the other groups, our scholars were the most applauded and became the darlings of the festival, with audiences giving them a standing ovation after every performance," Fabella said.

Weekly shows on Friday

The young dancers now perform every Friday on the center's outdoor stage, and in cultural events organized by the Manila City government.

"For only P300, one can enjoy and experience an evening of Filipino folk songs and dances, and it goes with a special Filipino *merienda* (snack)," Fabella said, adding that proceeds from the show go to the center's foundation "to help other poor but deserving children."

Apart from enhancing his students' dancing abilities, Fabella said the training has another added benefit: it has raised their self-esteem.

"After a while, you can see how their grooming habits had changed. The way they carry themselves now is also different—how they walk, how they dress. They now exude confidence," he observed, saying that part of the training involves teaching the young dancers good grooming and proper manners.

Though there was a minor problem with discipline at first, that was soon readily dealt with, Fabella added.

Most disciplined

"I believe all our hard work has paid off because usually, our group has not only been applauded for its performance but has also been cited as the most organized and most disciplined," he told the INQUIRER.

Apart from the rigid training held three times a week, the dance scholars also receive a transportation allowance, free uniform and snacks.

New talents wanted

Every summer, Elejar, Fabella and Perez look for new talents to develop.

"Some members drop out because they move elsewhere, others leave to concentrate in school, but it's okay because we have been encouraging them to go back to school," Fabella said.

He proudly added that some of the more talented students of the center have joined some of the country's top ballet groups.

"It's very satisfying and gratifying for a teacher to know that our efforts are bearing fruit. But more important, it feels great knowing that these children were just ordinary kids with big dreams and the heart to pursue them," Fabella said.

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gerry Lirio

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to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to tter life for their families. These a

My life at sea

By Raymund D. Dizon

LAST JAN. 17, I LEFT MANILA FOR PUNta Arenas in Argentina with four other Filipinos to join a seismic vessel crew.

Working on a boat was never part of my plans.

While still in college taking up a business degree, my goal was to work in a top 100 company—start from below and work my way up to top management.

But the country's worsening economy and the high cost of living in Manila made me think twice about the career path I had built in my mind.

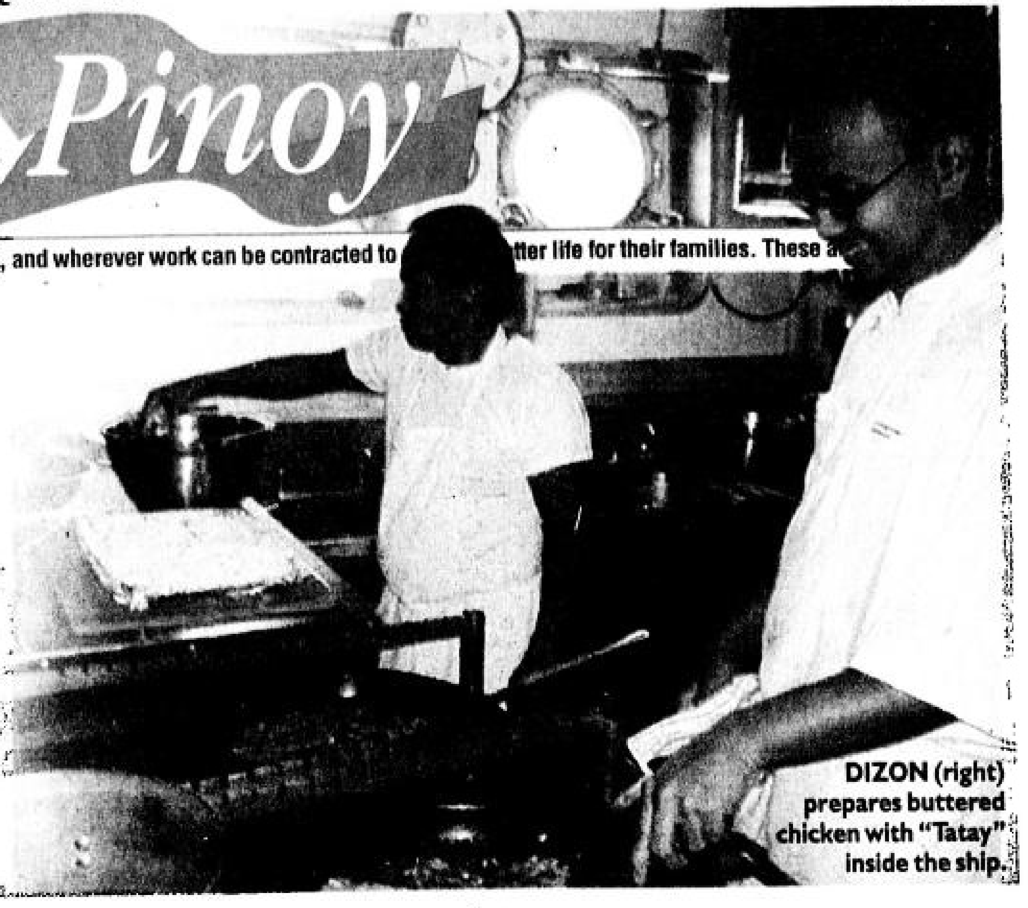
At 28, nearly 10 years since graduating from college, and after having had a string of low-paying, thankless jobs, I am now an Overseas Filipino Worker or what our government calls "Ang Bagong Bayani ng Bayan."

I have been hired as an assistant cook in the seismic vessel that does oil exploration in South America and Canada. (The culinary courses I took up while in between jobs back home came in handy in my application.)

You're probably wondering what a seismic vessel is. OFWs, after all, are known to work on cargo vessels, barges, tankers, and the luxurious passenger vessels.

Seismic vessels, I learned, are boats that explore the sea

MY LIFE/ A28



DIZON (right) prepares buttered chicken with "Tatay" inside the ship.

GlobeQUEST Offers Affordable PC-based Prepaid Calling Service

GlobeQUEST has come up with the country's first PC-based VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) service that utilizes traditional telephone prepaid cards to allow corporate and individual users to save as much as 78 percent in international calls.

Dubbed as GlobeQUEST Web Phone, the prepaid calling service is available through any Internet-connected PC, preferably those with broadband connection. It can be used to call a landline and mobile phone anywhere in the country and abroad at very low rates.

For instance, calls to the top 10 most popular foreign destinations, namely, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and USA, are merely charged P4.50 or $0.086 per minute as compared to the traditional IDD rate of $0.40.

Thus, companies which require constant communication with business associates in the said countries can realize substantial savings if they use GlobeQUEST Web Phone, said Jesus C. Romero, GlobeQUEST Head

GlobeQUEST Web Phone is also targeted towards busy professionals who often have to work and make calls while mobile.

With their Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) enabled laptops or PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), executives, sales persons, journalists and other field workers can easily make a call via the Internet via hundreds of GlobeQUEST Wireless Internet Zone (WiZ) Hotspots scattered in strategic locations nationwide.

Reaching a Globe Handyphone (GHP) subscriber through an Internet-connected laptop or PDA only costs P4.50 per minute as compared to P6.50 per minute for mobile-originating calls.

GlobeQUEST Web Phone is being offered initially in tandem with the Globe1 prepaid card which can be purchased from any Globelines Payments and Services Center and from prepaid card retail outlets nationwide.

Globe1 was designed as the first universal call card, to be used from any Globelines, Globe Handyphone or TM phone. However, the lowest IDD rates are currently applicable only to calls from Globelines.

Thus, although the product has been growing in popularity, interested users in areas not covered by Globelines cannot avail of the lowest IDD rates, thereby, prompting the company to look for other ways to offer the service to a wider segment of the population.

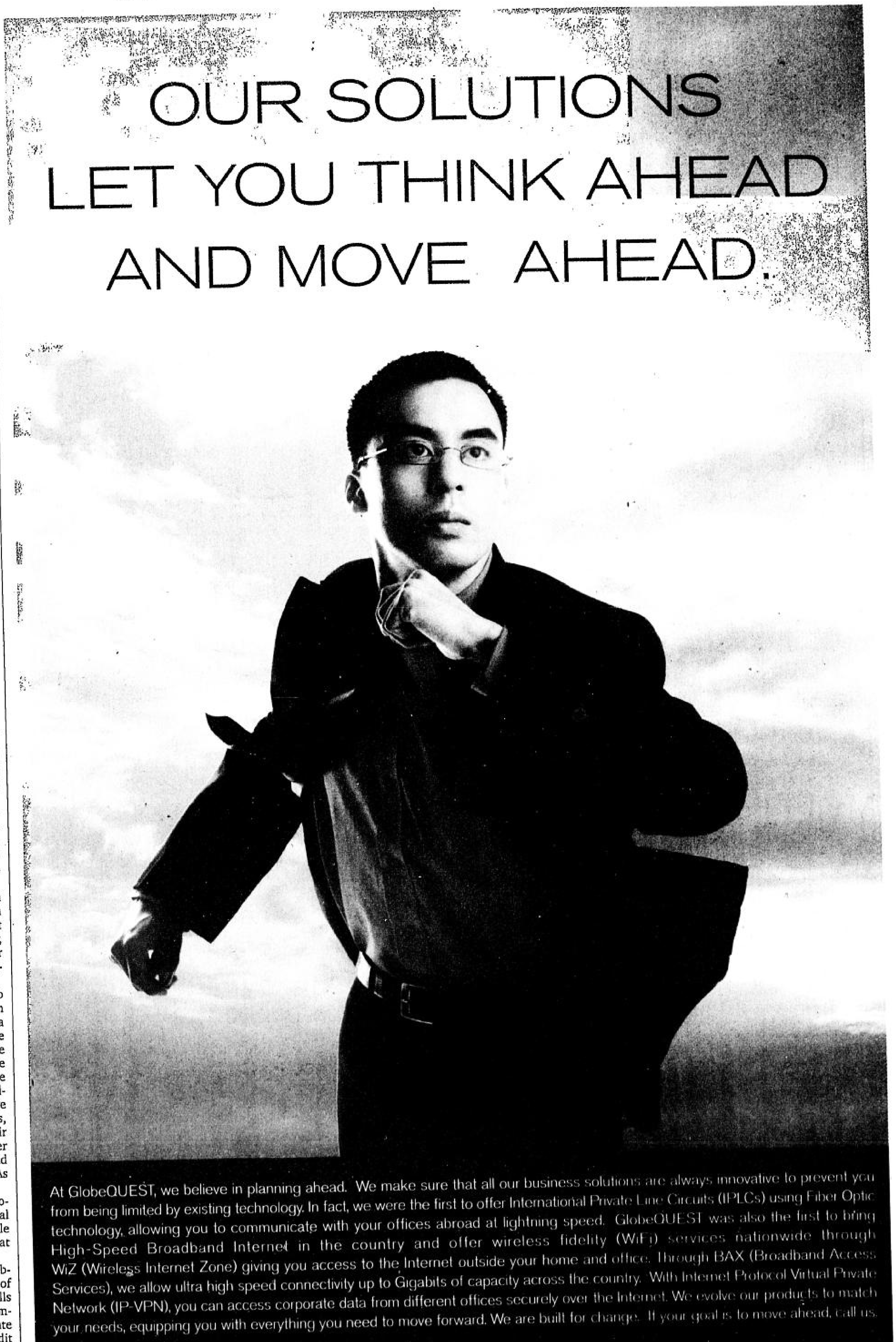
"We do not expect GlobeQUEST Web Phone to totally replace regular phones in making IDD calls. However, there are a number of factors that may make people turn to it. First, GlobeQUEST Web Phone offers cheaper rates than regular landline and mobile phones; second, it is available in prepaid, thus, more attractive to budget-conscious users; third, people are spending more time on the Internet, thus, they may want to place calls from their PCs; and lastly, with the growing number of road warriors, being able to work and make calls via their laptop and PDAs would be a plus factor," Romero said.

While other popular Web-based programs provide free PC-to-PC international calls, he said that they are only available to subscribers who must be logged in at the same time.

Romero noted that although these Web-based programs offer a lower rate of around $0.02-$0.03 per minute for calls to the US from the Philippines as compared to the GlobeQUEST Web Phone rate of $0.08, they are only available via credit card and for a minimum load of around $10.

"Not everyone has a credit card and is willing to buy $10 worth of credit for international calls. This is where we come in. GlobeQUEST Web Phone offers convenience and accessibility, not to mention the cheapest IDD rates in the country today," he said.

Advt.



At GlobeQUEST, we believe in planning ahead. We make sure that all our business solutions are always innovative to prevent you from being limited by existing technology. In fact, we were the first to offer International Private Line Circuits (IPLCs) using Fiber Optic technology, allowing you to communicate with your offices abroad at lightning speed. GlobeQUEST was also the first to bring High-Speed Broadband Internet in the country and offer wireless fidelity (WiFi) services nationwide through WiZ (Wireless Internet Zone) giving you access to the Internet outside your home and office. Through BAX (Broadband Access Services), we allow ultra high speed connectivity up to Gigabits of capacity across the country. With Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network (IP-VPN), you can access corporate data from different offices securely over the Internet. We evolve our products to match your needs, equipping you with everything you need to move forward. We are built for change. If your goal is to move ahead, call us.

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'Why are there too many Pinoys here, Tatay?'

By Volt Contreras

AWARD-WINNING POP SINGER AND COMPOSER REY Valera found himself "cornered" and without a ready answer when, sometime in early 1998, his then teenage son Valor asked him: "Why did your generation allow this to happen?"

Sa Aking Panahon

Ang aking bayan, mahal ng kalikasan,
Palaging may araw, maghapon ang kwentuhan
Sa aking panahon may formalin ang gulay,
Mangidnap ng tao, parang hanapbuhay
May'ron kaming Xerex, gigisingin ka sa sex,
Moral naming babang-baba, nagre-rape pati bata

Ito ang bayan ko ngayon, ito ang aking panahon.
Kung maaaalala mo kami, ito ang aking panahon.

Sikat ang Pinatubo, umalis mga Kano,
Ngunit ang isip namin, G.I. Joe pa rin,
Pagkatapos mag-aral, takbo ay Amerika,
Tingin namin sa bayan ay walang pag-asa
Salitang pagkakaisa ay narinig na namin
Ngunit di alam ang gagawin at anong ibig sabihin

Ito ang bayan ko ngayon, ito ang aming panahon
Kung maaalala nyo kami ito ang aming panahon

Sa aking panahon uso ang mag-Saudi,
Pag-uwi mayro'ng TV, may Blue Seal ang barkada
May ilang linggo magbebenta na ulit,
Pinayaman ibang bayan, pamilya'y iiwanan,
Kung marami sanang maka-Diyos sa gobyerno
At hindi na Diyos ang pera, baka mayro'ng pag-asa

Ito ang bayan ko ngayon, ito ang aming panahon
Kung maaalala n'yo kami, ito ang aming panahon

Kung maaalala (sana nga) nyo kami (kabataan),
Ito ang aming panahon

Accompanying his dad on a show tour of Australia, Valor was just wondering why Filipinos in millions have been forced to leave their country in search of jobs, like those he would see turning up en masse for his father's concerts overseas.

The poet in Valera took several months to come up with a satisfactory explanation—in the medium he knew best.

"Sa Aking Panahon" (In My Time), he said, can be considered his letter to the Filipino youth who, like his children, are inheriting a country which previous generations down to their parents seemed to have messed up.

Going abroad

The song wryly alludes to Nature's perversion in the name of commerce (*Vegetables laced with formalin*), the Filipinos' so-called colonial *"GI Joe"* mentality, and the moral decadence that has turned kidnapping into a lucrative trade and young kids into rapists.

But about a third of the lyrics tackle the brain drain (*After graduating/ Off to America we go/ For we see no hope here*) and lack of job opportunities that have driven many breadwinners to leave their families for *"Saudi"* and other *"Blue Seal"* lands.

The OFW phenomenon figured prominently in the composition because, in the first place, the whole song was inspired by the question Valera got from his son Valor about the exodus of unemployed Filipinos.

"I felt cornered and couldn't answer him," Valera told the INQUIRER in a recent interview. Easily I could have just blamed everything on the government, but when he asked why 'my generation' allowed all these to happen, I had nothing to say."

The father of four further confided that "Panahon" was written in a period in his life when he himself contemplated joining the ranks of OFWs.

In the late '90s, he said, he seriously thought of "trying it out for at least six months in the States, see if I can *uproot* myself."

Last song

And he was not even that optimistic about making it to the US as a musician. "Maybe I can start it out over there as a 'floor manager' (somebody who mops the floor) or a McDonald's crew member," he recalled. He might have spoken in half-jest, but at that instant Valera—a prolific hitmaker in the '70s and '80s—sounded like any typical father with a growing family to support.

The next few years would see Valera holding shows for Filipinos in the United States, but his plans to work or settle there did not push through.

"I've realized that I still want my children to grow up in Filipino values," he said, referring to Valor, now 25; Clarisse, 17; Gretta, 22; and Valerie, 23. "Materially, we may be lacking here (in the Philippines), but over here we are still family oriented."

Questions for all

"I may have been frustrated with our country, but ultimately it's not about material things," he said.

"Panahon" was Valera's "last composition" for and about himself; He has written several more songs over the past several years but these were for his children's debut album as the group "Salingket," their fledgling attempt to follow their father's big footsteps in the music business.

With its provocative theme and lyrics, "Panahon" has never been released commercially in the scale of past Valera classics. It's hardly played on radio, but Valera has since made it part of his concert repertoire here or abroad. With each rendition of "Panahon," Pinoy fans more familiar with his romantic ballads would be in for a little jolt.

Valera hoped that the song can convey his personal view "that not just the government but all of us have a hand in what we have become today. This is for the next generation, explaining what we all did in our time."

Why so many OFWs? Let Valor—and the rest of the youth—get an honest answer from an artist who minced no words, a father who worried about the future, and a Filipino who could still say *"sana"* (I hope) through it all.

FAST FACTS

Composers, musicians, singers and other entertainers
(Deployed in 2005)

Country	Male	Female	Not stated	Total
Japan	709	22,356	4	23,069
South Korea	69	613		682
China	54	39		93
Hong Kong	24	1		25
Malaysia	10	10		20
UAE	3	9		12
Bahrain	6	3		9
Qatar	5	3		8
Diego Garcia (UK territory)	4	2		6
N. Marianas		5		5
India	2	3		5
Oman	1	3		4
Taiwan		2		2
Singapore		2		2
Total	887	23,051	4	23,942

Source: POEA COMPILED BY PDI RESEARCH

Desperate husbands (and boyfriends, and other men)

By Isabel T. Escoda

THAT AMERICAN SONG FROM THE 1920s, "How're you going to keep 'em down in the farm after they've seen Paree?" could well be rewritten today thus: "How're you going to keep them down in the barrio after they've seen Hong Kong?" Some Filipino visitors entering the former British colony, now the SAR (China's "Special Administrative Region"), ostensibly as tourists, have over the years come in hopes of finding jobs. Many are so taken by Hong Kong—which proclaims itself "Asia's World City"—that the home country pales by comparison.

Countless recruitment agencies have long been doing a roaring trade sending domestics to households around Asia, Europe, the US and the Middle East (the Saudi Arabian king, according to a recent story in Hong Kong, "has homes around the globe and an army of staff from the Philippines, India and Indonesia"). The exodus of Filipinas has meant that countless children (including infants) are left in the hands of caregivers. And quite a few husbands, boyfriends and brothers left behind tend to feel demoralized, even desperate.

It's a truism that the Philippine economy is being kept afloat by remittances from the migrant workers, with women comprising most of those who've gone to work abroad. It was Corazon Aquino, after all, who first proclaimed the women "the nation's heroes"—a label that's worn thin over the years, being a sop for those forced to leave in order to survive. It's small comfort to be told one is performing something heroic when your government mismanages the economy and does so little for you.

Going to Shenzhen

Estimates today show that of the roughly 2,000 Filipino migrants leaving the country daily, 74 percent are women. The world apparently needs more housemaids and nannies than it does construction workers, seamen and drivers. The injury this does to Pinoy male pride has resulted in many broken marriages as well as misdemeanors, even crimes, at home.

But there are some lucky men who are extended lifelines by their womenfolk abroad. They get to visit their female relatives in Hong Kong who help them gain employment themselves. There are many instances where the domestics have either persuaded their employers to sponsor a relative, or who have found other employers for their menfolk.

Those who cannot find employment for their husbands or other male relatives (it's much easier to place females) sometimes bring the men in as tourists. A wife can send a supporting letter for her husband to show at the Chinese Embassy in Manila stating that his wife has a valid contract and would like him to visit her briefly; he has to show a round-trip ticket. Upon obtaining a visa and arriving in Hong Kong, he is then at the mercy of the airport immigration official who decides how long a visa to grant. It may range from one to two months, or a week or two.

Should the man wish to stay longer when the visa expires, his wife can accompany him to the immigration department to plead for an extension, which are usually good for a week or two. After that, if the man wants to stay a bit longer, he can hop on a train and cross the border into Shenzhen in mainland China.

The trip takes only an hour and the tourist from Hong Kong can spend a few hours in Shenzhen before heading back. He can spend a few hours shopping for bargains (if he's got some cash), then head back to the border and the train back to Hong Kong, where he again has to deal with the immigration officer. Luck plays a large role—a kindly official may grant an additional two weeks, but a suspicious one will give only a day or two, or even deport one back to Manila forthwith (if the passport shows multiple reentries, which produces suspicions of illegal employment).

Male servants

This routine is fairly common among the domestics and their visiting male dependents. Two women who have brought over a husband and a boyfriend are Jenilyn and Lily. Jenilyn has worked for a Chinese family for seven years, leaving behind her jobless husband Bong and three children in Davao; while Lily left her Visayan barrio and her boyfriend Jun five years ago to work for a European businesswoman.

Jenilyn had occasionally asked her employers if any of their relatives needed a male servant. Luckily there was one who needed someone to help at a warehouse. But first they wanted to meet Bong, who arrived as a tourist (with all expenses paid by his wife). The interview turned out well, and Bong returned to Davao to wait to be summoned by the Chinese Embassy in Manila for his visa—all this took two months.

Lily's boss is a European businesswoman who treats her like a family member.

Lily asked her to find Jun a job, but no one was interested in hiring a male. When her boss left for Europe once, she suggested Lily invite her boyfriend as a tourist so they could spend time together. Jun, who helps his parents eke out a living in their small Samar farm, was grateful to receive a ticket from Lily, but she was unable to find him an employer.

When his visa was expiring, she accompanied him to Shenzhen where he got an extension that let him stay longer (and earn a bit of money working part time—which is actually illegal). He soon had to leave, but he was grateful for the chance to see a place like Hong Kong which put Bohol in the shade for him.

Once back in his barrio, he returned to exchanging text messages with his sweetheart.

It's thus how many others of the "nation's heroes" find solace from their toil, and how they help diminish their menfolk's desperation.

My life at sea

From page A27

for oils and minerals. They are hired by oil companies around the world.

Unlike passenger vessels, our boat is only 65 meters long and has a gross tonnage of 1,900.

It is a very small but tough boat, equipped with anti-rolling stabilizers which help us on rough seas.

My new colleagues and I finally arrived at the Punta Arenas airport after flying for more than 48 hours.

We had a whole day to rest and explore the city before finally boarding our boat. As we walked around, we found out that their hero was Ferdinand Magellan. It was quite strange for me to be in a place where their hero was killed in my country.

We also checked out some of their local shops and churches. The place was peaceful, people followed traffic rules, and I actually breathed clean air!

Filipinos on board

I was already enjoying it here. But, of course, the question that echoed loudly in my head was: "Am I ready to join the boat? Is my body fit for sea? Are all my training enough?"

Finally, our agent arrived. "The boat is here," he said.

It only took us five minutes to reach the port. *"Andito na kami!"* one of our companions shouted.

"Kabayan!" answered one of the crewmembers. Our fellow Filipinos, standing on the bow of the blue and white boat, were obviously very happy to see us.

Of the 30 men on our vessel, 14 are Filipinos, all working as crewmembers.

I share a room with 24-year-old Pedro, our messman who had become my friend while still applying at the agency in Manila. This is also his first time to be an OFW.

His father, Pedro Sr., is our chief cook. We call him "Tatay." At 53, he has spent three decades working on different vessels as a cook.

But still, on our first day at work, Pedro and I were both seasick! We threw up, were folded up in our beds, cold and dizzy! *Para kaming mga basang sisiw.*

The veteran OFWs were telling us: *"Alon Pasig lang 'yan! Kaya niyo yan!"*

Seeing his son battle seasickness, Tatay could only admonish Pedro: *"Sinabi ko na nga diyan na kumuha na lang ng* medicine *nagpumilit na mag-barko! 'Yan ang napala nya!"*

Strong, big waves

I recovered a day later but Pedro was still down for a couple more days.

Tatay told us: *"Ito ang buhay marino. Binabayaran ka sa alon hindi sa trabaho. Ang trabaho madali lang!"*

I instantly realized how true Tatay's words were. I didn't hear stories about how strong the waves are from those who encouraged me to take this job!

Their stories were all wonderful—gimmicks and night outs when they are at shore, getting to know people from other countries, and how parties last all night long.

But they said nothing about strong and big waves!

I also found out that one of the hardest things to do in a boat is to wake up for work and to go to sleep. The waves simply kept on waking us up.

But as the days went by, Pedro and I learned to adjust to our new lives at sea.

I also learned to use lemon for *sinigang* and anchovies for *pinakbet*.

These, of course, make our all-time favorite dishes lose their authentic flavor but in the middle of the ocean, one can't be choosy with the ingredients.

Our Canadian colleagues love the *chicharon* Tatay and I make out of chicken skin. They even dip it in *sukang may sili, paminta*, and *bawang*. On the other hand, my fellow Pinoys here have had enough of corned beef.

DIZON (middle) hangs around with crewmates Pedro (left) and Clem at the Globe Tavern at the Falkland Islands.

It's been three months now and I'm halfway through my contract.

I'm enjoying my work as well as the company of the American, Canadians, Russian, and of course, Filipino seamen.

I have learned that being an OFW is more than just earning dollars. It is also so much about literally discovering the world and living in a global village.

My Russian friend wants to learn Tagalog so I had my parents send over a Filipino dictionary. One of our Canadian friends has grown so fond of "pusoy" that at night, he would bang on our rooms and shout: *"Laro na! Pusoy na!"*

I've been to the Falkland Islands where 12 Filipinos work and live with their British spouses. I've also been near the South Pole where I saw a school of dolphins swimming in front of our boat.

A month from now, we will be crossing the equator heading to St. Johns, Canada.

Both Pedro and I have just recently celebrated our birthdays with our new friends.

I am lucky because I have not experienced any of the harrowing OFW stories we often read or hear in the news back home.

On our vessel, there is dignity of labor and respect for each one's skills. Of course, homesickness would hit once in a while. When it happens, I learned to just count my money. Knowing that I wouldn't be earning this much if I had chosen to slug it out back home honestly makes me feel better.

A veteran Pinoy colleague also told me that the new generation of OFWs is actually very lucky. When they used to wait for letters from their loved ones, hoping that their relatives would send pictures too, now there's the Internet where one can e-mail and chat with one's family at home as well as talk to them via the web cam and VSAT phones. For recreation, there's a DVD player with home theater speakers.

Certainly, it is hard being in the middle of this vast ocean almost all the time. I still would rather work in the Philippines and build my dreams there.

But just recently, another Filipino had arrived as a seismic observer. He is a 26-year-old college professor with a young family to feed. The salary he earned back home was obviously not enough.

Again the realities of life in the Philippines reminded me that in my hands, and in those of my fellow OFWs, is the opportunity to have better lives and a more financially secure future. And now I think, as I wind up this story in our sturdy little boat, being an OFW is not so bad after all. It could even become my lifetime career.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

CIA boss Goss in stunning resignation

WASHINGTON—PORTER GOSS HAS ABRUPTLY resigned as CIA director, plunging the embattled US spy agency into new uncertainty as it seeks to rebuild from a series of intelligence failures in the war on terrorism and Iraq.

No reason was given Friday for the resignation which was announced by President George W. Bush at the White House.

US media reports said Goss will be replaced by Air Force General Michael Hayden, the current principal deputy director of national intelligence.

Goss took over the Central Intelligence Agency in September 2004 on a mission to rebuild it after it faced a storm of criticism over the failure to detect the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist strikes and the information supplied to justify the invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Bush, with Goss sitting next to him, paid tribute to the "integrity" and "honor" of the outgoing director.

"He has got a five-year plan to increase the number of analysts and operatives, which is going to help make this country a safer place and help us win the 'war on terror.' He's instilled a sense of professionalism."

Goss, who worked as a CIA agent himself for 10 years before going into politics, said he was leaving the agency working on an "even keel."

But lawmakers have said Goss is leaving the foreign intelligence agency in turmoil.

Goss quickly became a controversial figure at the CIA for his hardline efforts to clamp down on leaks and create a more effective intelligence organization.

The agency is under an ethics cloud after its number three official, executive director Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, became the subject of a CIA Inspector General investigation. It was not clear however whether a link exists between the probe and the resignation of Goss.

Speaking on CNN television Friday, former Congressman Bob Barr said the ethics charges, which reportedly involve ties to an alleged prostitution ring, may prove key.

"I think there's going to be more coming out. We don't know the whole story," Barr said.

"It's starting to reach into the CIA," said Barr who described the widening scandal as being "like a sore that's been festering, that could very well burst out and maybe that's a reach into the top levels of the agency."

Although he doubted that Goss was directly involved, Barr said that the scandal "certainly reflects on the leadership."

The agency has been demoralized by widespread criticism of its efforts to assess worldwide terror threats from Islamic terrorists, the insurgency in Iraq, the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and other global threats.

The CIA director's position, historically one of the most influential in Washington, was considerably less powerful during Goss's tenure because of reforms imposed by the US Congress to reshape intelligence operations.

Bush named John Negroponte as director of national intelligence in charge of all 16 US intelligence agencies, including the CIA.

Goss's efforts to reform the agency have been criticized by opposition Democratic lawmakers and reportedly led to the resignations of key officials, including deputy CIA director John McLaughlin in November 2004.

His shakeup also led to the departure of the CIA official who oversaw foreign operations, deputy director of operations Stephen Kappes and several other senior clandestine service officers. *AFP*

GOSS: No successor yet REUTERS

A DARFUR girl waits to be registered at The Gaga refugee camp in eastern Chad May 5. After three deadlines for a deal passed, the biggest of three Darfur rebel factions and the Sudanese government signed a peace agreement on Friday but two other rebel factions rejected the deal, casting doubt on whether it would be workable. REUTERS

Joy, mixed with concern, as Darfur rebel faction signs peace agreement

ABUJA, NIGERIA—THE SHOUTS of joy could not drown out concerns that the latest pledge of peace in Sudan's impoverished Darfur region would fail as past accords have, despite unprecedented international involvement.

Applause and cheers sounded Friday as Sudan's government and the main rebel group signed a peace agreement and then proceeded to initial each of its 85 pages. The hall in a Nigerian presidential villa was filled with traditional leaders in white turbans, fighters in camouflage turbans, diplomats and journalists.

While the main rebel group signed the document, two others rejected it, expressing concerns security and compensation for war victims had not been guaranteed and because it called for a top presidential adviser from Darfur instead of a vice president.

Optimism was muted by the two groups' absence and by a history of failure to live up to past agreements.

Members of the fractious rebel camp are united in accusing Sudan's central government of neglecting their impoverished western region, but divided because of leadership rivalries and differing approaches.

The peace deal was backed by the African Union, the United States, Britain, the European Union and the Arab League. It calls for a ceasefire, disarmament of militias linked to the government and accused of some of the war's worst atrocities, the integration of thousands of rebel fighters into Sudan's armed forces and a protection force for civilians in the immediate aftermath of the war.

Political provisions include guarantees that rebel factions will have the majority in Darfur's three state legislatures, though the rebels did not get the national vice presidency they had sought.

US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick indicated the two rebel groups that did not sign the accord could be bypassed, an assessment bolstered when one of the groups split Friday, with dissenters criticizing their leader for not embracing the treaty. Zoellick said implementing the agreement would be a challenge, but said he was looking ahead to organizing a UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.

US President George W. Bush intervened during the difficult negotiations, sending a letter to the largest rebel group, Minni Minnawi, with assurances that the US would strongly support implementation of the peace accord, assist monitoring compliance, hold those not cooperating accountable and support a donors conference for Darfur, Zoellick told Washington reporters by telephone.

Zoellick said he read the letter to the assembled parties during the night.

The Sudanese government initially rejected calls for UN peacekeepers to replace the thousands of African Union peacekeepers now in Darfur, but indicated Friday it would yield once the peace treaty was signed. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Aussie miners within meters of rescue

BEACONSFIELD, Australia—The effort to free two Australian gold miners trapped underground for 11 days entered its most delicate—and dangerous—phase on Saturday, as rescuers completed work using a giant drill and prepared to cut the last few meters of an escape tunnel by hand. Matthew Gill, manager of the Beaconsfield Gold Mine said rescuers were now within 3 meters of Brant Webb, 37, and Todd Russell, 34, and had finished boring through solid rock with a giant drilling machine. Officials have indicated it is likely the men will have to spend another night underground. *AP*

Suharto still bleeding

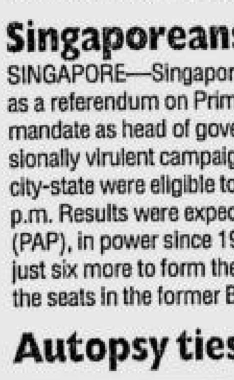
SUHARTO AP

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Former Indonesian dictator Suharto's condition remained unstable Saturday due to "dangerous" intestinal bleeding, two days after being rushed to hospital, one of his doctors said. The bleeding has reduced the levels of hemoglobin, or red blood cells, carrying oxygen to the 84-year-old Suharto's brain, heart, kidneys and lungs, said Dr. Joko Raharjo, one of 20 specialists monitoring the former leader's condition. "We are worried about the lack of oxygen," Raharjo told reporters. "The bleeding at his old age is dangerous." Suharto was admitted to Pertamina Hospital in the capital, Jakarta, on Thursday evening after complaining of feeling weak. He also was having problems swallowing food, doctors said. Suharto, who ruled the world's fourth most-populous nation for 32 years, has suffered health problems since he was ousted amid massive street demonstrations in 1998, hampering attempts to prosecute him on multimillion dollar corruption charges. *AP*

Singaporeans vote in general election

SINGAPORE—Singaporeans cast their votes Saturday in a general election seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who was seeking his first mandate as head of government against a rejuvenated opposition. After an occasionally virulent campaign, some 1.2 million voters in the politically regimented city-state were eligible to cast their ballots for 47 contested seats from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Results were expected by late Saturday. The right-wing People's Action Party (PAP), in power since 1959, has already won 37 uncontested seats and needs just six more to form the majority in the 84-seat legislature. It held all but two of the seats in the former British colony's last parliament. *AFP*

Autopsy ties boy's death to boot camp



ANDERSON AP

MARTIN Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old boy who died in January a day after entering a boot camp in northwest Florida, died from suffocation and not sickle cell trait, a new autopsy released Friday concluded. The initial autopsy by the medical examiner in Bay County contended that the boy had died from the rare condition of sickle cell trait despite a video that showed guards at the boot camp beating him. But State Attorney Mark Ober, who was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to investigate Martin's death, ordered a new autopsy. Ober released the autopsy results, but did not make any arrests on Friday and said in a statement that he had no "timeline" for completing the investigation. Guards punched and choked the boy after he said he was unable to finish running laps. The beating was captured on tape. *NYT*

Terror attack on transport seen unstoppable

VIENNA—AFTER LAST YEAR'S London transport bombings, experts meeting at a pan-European forum in Vienna said Friday that it was all but impossible to make public transport safe from terrorist attack.

The terrorist threat is a "growing reason for concern" after attacks on the Moscow subway in 2004 that killed 41 people and on the London Underground in 2005 in which 52 died plus four suicide bombers, said Andrea Soehnchen.

Soehnchen, of the International Union of Public Transportation (UITP), was speaking at a conference here of the 55-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A sarin gas attack in Tokyo in 1995 left 12 people dead and contaminated 3,000 passengers.

"The only transportation system where security can be guaranteed is a closed system, something that is incompatible with public transportation which by its nature must be as open as possible," she said.

Ground transportation carries 150 million people a day worldwide, 34 times more than travel by air. It is not an option to search all passengers as this would be impossible, according to the UITP, which represents 2,500 operators in 90 countries.

The United States is testing machines to detect radioactivity, explosives and chemical substances being carried by people traveling.

But these technologies are expensive and oriented more towards air travel, Soehnchen said.

"Using them widely would require huge investments that would take money away from improving public transportation systems," she added.

Alain Caire, a security official for the Paris public transportation system RATP, said: "It is almost impossible to prevent an attack by someone who is prepared to lose his life."

"It is much easier to reinforce security daily for passengers."

The RATP, which carries 10 million people a day, has put cameras in all its buses and wants to increase by the end of 2007 the number of cameras in its subway from 1,800 to 6,000 at a cost of 90 million euros ($113.4 million), Caire told AFP.

French officials have been inspired by British success in London in using a video monitoring system to identify the attackers in the London underground.

Such a system would in Paris film all passengers and would require the installation of an additional 4,500 cameras, an operation that would cost 65 million euros, Caire said.

"This is an important problem that we must resolve now, both technically and economically," he said.

The RATP budget of 15 million euros a years has not budged for 10 years.

Still, French authorities claim they foiled two terrorist attacks, in 1995 and 1996.

Authorities point out that police intelligence operations are needed to fight terrorism, more than outfitting systems with surveillance machines.

"The fight against terrorism is not the job of public transportation workers, whose task is to transport people," Soehnchen said. *AFP*

Rep. Kennedy seeks drug rehab treatment

KENNEDY AP

WASHINGTON—REP. PATRICK J. Kennedy said Friday that he was seeking treatment for addiction to prescription medicines after he crashed his car into a traffic barrier on Capitol Hill, in the latest crisis for one of America's storied political families.

Kennedy, a six-term Democratic congressman from Rhode Island, said he had entered rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

The congressman said he did not remember any details of the accident, which occurred shortly before 3 a.m. on Thursday. But he said, "I do know enough to know that I need help."

At a news conference on Capitol Hill, Kennedy, the son of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, gave his account of the crisis that has engulfed his family. He appeared shaken. His voice cracked at times as he read a statement.

"I simply do not remember getting out of bed, being pulled over by the police or being cited for three driving infractions," Kennedy said. "That's not how I want to live my life, and it's not how I want to represent the people of Rhode Island."

Kennedy, 38, said he was leaving Friday to return to the Mayo Clinic. He disclosed that he had been treated there in December for what he described as an "addiction to prescription pain medication." He said that he came back to Congress this year "reinvigorated and healthy." But he said he had suffered a recurrence of the "addiction problem"—"a chronic condition for which I'm taking full responsibility." *NYT*

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Mayol loses title bid via decision

By Recah Trinidad

TOKYO—RODEL MAYOL STARTED OUT sharp and strong but faded rapidly against Eagle Kyowa in the later rounds to lose his first bout in 23 fights and drop his bid for the WBC minimum weight title via a unanimous decision at the Korakuen Hall Saturday night.

After dominating the first six rounds, Mayol tired down and got pummeled in the closing rounds to fail in his attempt to become the country's lone world champion.

The celebrated Manny Pacquiao, a no-show here, holds the WBC International super featherweight crown reserved for boxers ranked 11th and lower by the world body.

Earlier in the card, Malcolm Tuñacao provided the Philippines with its moment of glory, turning from masterful to ferocious to stop Japan's Yasuo Kijima in the 11th round and retain his Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation bantamweight crown.

Mayol barely survived the final round after he was axed with a right cross, went down and was given the eight count after what had looked like a push.

Chuck Hasset had it 115-112, Alejandro Rochin scored 114-113, and Gale Van Hoi tallied 117-110—all for the defending champion. The INQUIRER saw it 115-112 for Kyowa.

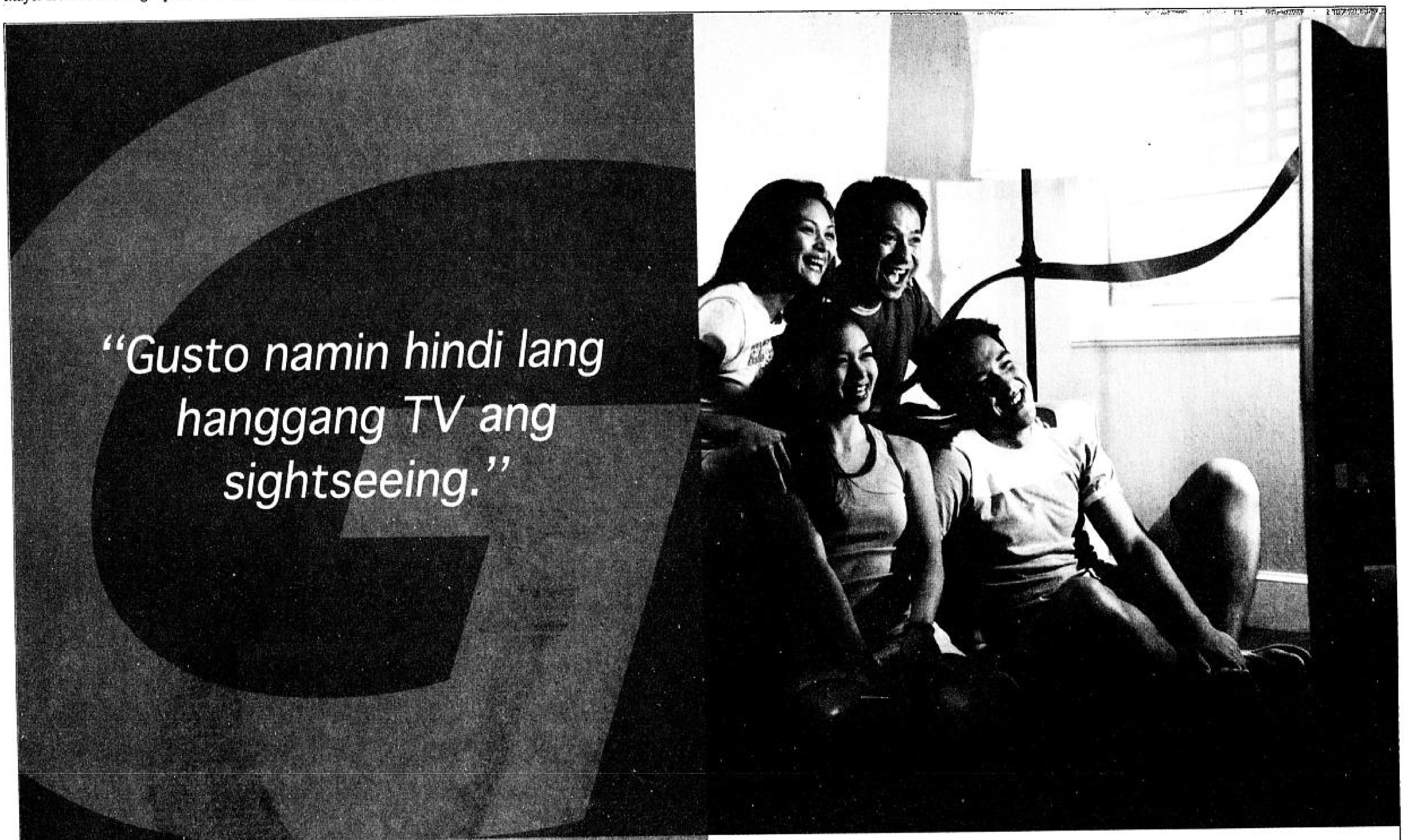
Mayol and his corner protested the knockdown but it was already clear at that point that the gallant Filipino had already lost his early grip on the match and his bid for the world crown was fading fast.

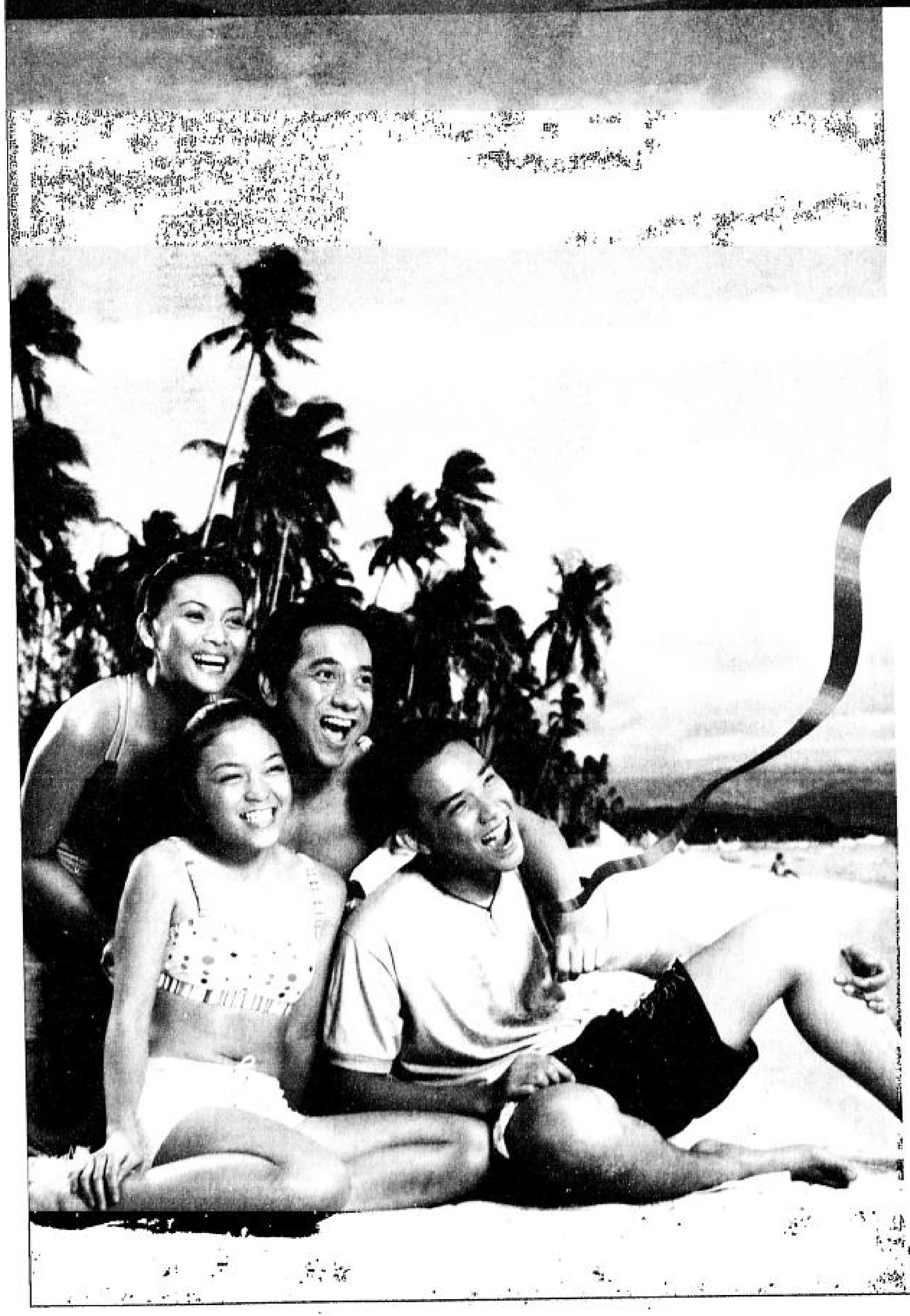
Mayol had punished Kyowa, a Thai national fighting with a Japanese tag, in the first six rounds but the defending champion, his face swollen and the right eye almost shut, managed to crawl back into the contest as Mayol failed to sustain his brilliance.

Tuñacao, the former WBC flyweight champion, dominated the one-sided bout against his Japanese foe and displayed fancy ringsmanship before unleashing an unanswered flurry that forced the referee to halt the fight.

The vastly experienced Tuñacao was enjoying a punching picnic but lost the fourth round when he became careless and got tagged with a combination to the head.

After allowing the fight to drag, Tuñacao flashed his old form near the end of the 11th.


"Gusto namin hindi lang hanggang TV ang sightseeing."



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LAKAS NG SUMMER SAMAHAN!

Araw-araw, puwede kayong manalo ng free trip for 4 to Boracay, Bohol, Cebu, Davao or Palawan! Abangan ang Gustong Bugtong Trivia of the Day sa inyong paboritong ABS-CBN shows!

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. Watch out for the Gustong Bugtong Trivia of the Day in various ABS-CBN shows from May 6 to 21. Ex.: Gusto kong magpa-tan sa ilalim nito. Clue: RAWA
2. Download a summer tip and answer the trivia question by texting **GTIP <Answer>** to **2346** (Download is FREE OF CHARGE). Ex.: GTIP ARAW to 2346
3. Register for free by texting **REG <Name>/<Address>/<Age>** to **2346** (Registration is required only once for the whole promo period)
4. Download more summer tips to increase your chances of winning. Text **GTIP <Category>** to **2346** (P2.50/text).

For more info, text **GTRIP** to **2346**

'di ba, ang lakas mo sa **Globe**

See flyers for details. Promo until May 21, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1080, Series of 2006.

Bata trips Django, gains semis

FILIPINO POOL ICON EFREN "BATA" Reyes beat bosom buddy Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 9-5, in the quarterfinals of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour yesterday at the Nguyen Du Sports Hall in Ho-Chih-Mihn City, Vietnam.

After topping their respective brackets during the elimination round last Friday, the two cue masters, playing under the auspices of RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat were bracketed against each other in the final eight of the event organized by ESPN Star Sports.

Reyes advanced to the semifinals where he will meet the winner between reigning Tour champion Yang Ching Shun of Chinese Taipei and local bet Nguyen Phuc Long.

For making it to the semifinals, Reyes, who credited his strong showing to the Lasik refractive surgery done on him by Doctors Jack Arroyo and Arnold Salud at the American Eye Center, is assured of at least $3,000.

Also advancing to the semis is China's Li He Wen who bested countryman Xu Meng, 9-5. He will face off against Wang Hung Hsiang of Taiwan, who foiled Nguyen Phoung Thao of Vietnam, 9-5.

Two other Filipinos, Marlon Manalo and Alex Pagulayan failed to move past the group stage as they split their two assignments. *Marlon Bernardino*

REYES

Solar earns right to air World Cup

FULFILLING ITS VISION OF BRINGing the biggest events in the world to Philippine households, Solar Entertainment Corp. lobbied and succeeded to earn telecast rights of the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

Filipino sports fans can witness the quest for the Holy Grail of the most popular sport in the world on Sportsplus starting June 9.

"This (World Cup) is the most anticipated sporting event of the season and we will not let our viewers to miss it," said Peter Chanliong, chief operating officer of Solar Entertainment Corp.

Local football fans can also experience the chills of the World Cup fever through the "Sportsplus World Cup Goal Getaway."

The football festival, organized by Solar Entertainment Corp. led by World Cup project manager Eric Centeno, is slated on seven weekends leading to the World Cup.

"Football is a global sport and World Cup is like a celebration of humanity. Through this (Sportsplus World Cup Goal Getaway) we celebrate humanity with the world," said Centeno.

It started last week at the Waterfront Beach in Subic in cooperation with the Beach Football Association of the Philippines (BFAP) headed by Mike Athab and Rea Villa and SBMA.

ST. BENILDE's Janilyn Sarabia and Faith Ann de Guzman jubilate after beating the USJ-R tandem. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Adamson duo cops men's volley crown

By Musong R. Castillo

BORACAY ISLAND, AKLAN—ADAMSON'S MICHAEL ALINSUNURIN and Sherwin Meneses ended a foes' dream run in the morning and completed one of their own yesterday afternoon by winning the men's division of the 10th Nestea Beach Volley championships.

Alinsunurin-Meneses showed too much power and class in ripping Gabshar Tahiluddin and Yusop Abdulkarim of Mindanao State, 21-17, 21-18, in the finals to win the tournament for the first time and pocket the P100,000 champion's purse.

"It was the result of hard work and determination to win," the burly, 5-foot-10 Alinsunurin said in Filipino. "We prepared so hard for this tournament, even jogging in high noon (in Manila) to get used to the heat (here)."

The Adamson duo's win in the finals came on the heels of a 21-15, 23-21 decision of the Orpheus Cubillas-Jose Carlos Cagadas combine of Capitol University of Cagayan de Oro in the semis, which snuffed out a fairy tale run of the rookie squad.

Adamson also avenged a loss to the same MSU squad in the quarterfinals last year, when Tahiluddin-Abdulkarim pounced on the Falcons' inexperience and won convincingly.

Meanwhile, Faith Ann de Guzman and Janilyn Sarabia of College of St. Benilde also became first time winners here, ruling the women's division over Michelle Matuguina and Juliet Mae Manikit of the University of San Jose-Recoletos.

De Guzman-Sarabia topped the marathon match under scorching heat, 21-17, 12-21, 15-13, as Benilde did not wind up empty-handed even after its men's team's reign was ended by Tahiuddin-Abdulkarim, 22-24, 17-21, in the other semis match.

"We did not expect to win, especially after losing our first quarterfinals match," De Guzman, a graduating Human Resources Management student, said.

De Guzman and Sarabia also won P100,000.

The event, which drew a total of 24 teams coming from the country's three major islands, was sponsored by Speedo, MTV, Power Shot, Hey Jude, Le Soleil de Boracay, Mikasa, Cebu Pacific, Seventeen, D-Mall, Villa De Oro and ClubTen.

Alvarez shines in kart leg

REIGNING JUNIOR KARTER OF the Year John Alvarez unveiled another impressive performance recently in the second leg of the 2006 Shell-Cali Superkarting Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Alvarez put up a fierce fight against Javi Benitez on their way to the finish line before ending as runner-up in the ROK Junior class.

Posting a best lap time of 1:19.704, he wrapped up the 12-lap race in 14:48.486 or just 0.278 seconds behind Benitez.

It was another exciting travail for Alvarez who's backed up by Paramount Insurance, Prestige Cars BMW, Castrol and Thunder Energy Drinks. He actually started fifth on the grid of the second heat following a disappointing turnout in the first race. Determined, he passed one driver after another and wrested the No. 2 spot on Heat 2.

With Chief Engineer Jed Neri doing a good job on his engine, Alvarez later showed nerves of steel as he engaged Juha Turalba in neck-to-neck battle for the lead during the first 10 laps.

Turalba was forced out of the race following a collision with Alvarez who later found Benitez surging behind.

He controlled the lead and appeared headed to victory after passing the last turn but Benitez got the better luck with this crucial maneuver at the main straight going to the finish line.

11 enter Kimoni finals

NEARLY 200 VISAYAN SHUTtlers in Leyte joined the Tacloban leg of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 where 11 more pairs earned slots for the national finals this July at Market! Market in Bonifacio Global City.

Emerging as men's category winners were Christopher Esperas and Marnel Leona (level 2), Kendel Esperas and Dino Romero (level 3), Jerome Amit and Garry Balano, Kit Lomuntad and Rogue Rodriguez (level 4) and Rogelio Pagpaguitan and Ryan Sudario (level 5).

The ladies' champions were Rosarie Villegas and Seheila Mae Soriano (level 3), Jeanette Ong and Fennie Tan (level 4), and Lani Montejo and Sheila del Castillo (level 5), while Andrei Nocum and Jennie Lynne Radaza ruled the juniors' mixed (16-20 years old) division.

SPORTSWATCH

Banaag Grandmaster of Sikaran

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER/HARI OSIAS C. BANAAG ADDED ANOTHER FEATHER to his cap after he was awarded by the prestigious USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame as the "Philippine Grandmaster of Sikaran" held recently at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Los Angeles, California. A 10th degree red-belt, Banaag's rose to prominence when he established the Sikaran-Arnis Academy in Delano, California, in 2003, which ultimately expanded the Sikaran globally. It was the third time for Banaag, president/founder of Global Sikaran Federation and owner/proprietor of the Sikaran-Arnis Gym here in the country, to be cited by the USA. Martial Arts Hall of Fame. On Jan. 5 and 6, Banaag, in coordination with Mayor Joseph Buenaventura of Morong, will hold the 2007 Sikaran World Gold Cup Open Martial Arts Festival at the University of Rizal System in Morong, Rizal.

ARCHERY WINNERS: QC Councilor Ariel Inton raises the hands of novice gold medalist Bianca Gotuaco (right) and silver winner Nicole Cuerpo during the awarding ceremony of the recent National Archery Association of the Philippines age group meet at the Rizal coliseum.

Velasco Swim Camp ongoing

FORMER NATIONAL SWIMMER NHEMIA "EM-EM" VELASCO IS HOLDING A swimming camp from May 1 to June 3 at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center (formerly Rizal Racket Club) in Pasig City. Individual and group lessons are available from Monday to Friday (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Sundays (7-11 a.m.). Interested parties may contact Gladys at 633-0480. Velasco, a veteran of the 2000 Asian Championships, stopped competing in 2003 to continue her studies. This year, the 19-year-old sophomore at Miriam College was named MVP in the WNCAA and Women's Collegiate Sports Association after winning six gold medals in both leagues.

LPC special cockfest today

A SPECIAL 2-COCK DERBY WITH A WINNER-TAKE-ALL FORMAT GETS UNDERway at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum at 7 tonight with some 45 fights. Hosts are Nonoy Lolet and Ruel Martin who pegged the entry fee at P3,300. Submission of entries is until 2 p.m. today. Up next is the 3-cock derby of coliseum manager Alex Tobias on May 13, with more than 40 entries.Cash prize at stake is P300,000 for an entry fee of P5,500.For details, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Runnex anniversary run up

RUNNEX, ORGANIZED BY EXECUTIVES INVOLVED IN LONG DISTANCE RUNning, will commemorate its 23rd Anniversary with the staging of a 10K and 5K foot race in Quezon City today. Dubbed as the Runnex 23rd Anniversary Run, the event, backed-up by PowerBar and Pharmaton, is slated to flag-off at 6 a.m., in front of the Masscom Building of the University of the Philippines, in Diliman. For inquiries, call 366-9367, 363-0357 and (0917)392-8343.

Heritage Cup awarding rites May 12

THE GRAND CHAMPIONS IN THE PHILIPPINE HERITAGE CUP 2006 DERBY SEries, held recently at the Araneta Coliseum, will get due recognition in an awards rites on May 12 at Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. Baby Canillas (MRBC Spanicham) and the team of Romero Yu and Joseph and Peter Chua (BJ LPC Ray) emerged as grand champions after tallying 13 points each. Gene Garcia (GG Airvic) was runner-up. According to Rene Boy Diaz, president of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association, the third to tenth placers will also receive prizes. Call 926-7808, 924-5072 or 0920-5851940 (Taz Lunasco).

Daymiel sweeps JVC regional titles

VETERAN RONALD DAYMIEL STAMPED HIS CLASS IN THE DAVAO LEG OF THE JVC Open Regional Championships by winning three titles, including the men's singles crown in the centerpiece elite division at the Wheels 'N More Badminton Center Friday. Daymiel, playing out of Shuttle Zone, retired Sports Zone's Virgilio Natan in the second set to fashion out a 21-10, 19-10 victory for the men's plum in the elite category. Daymiel then teamed up with Edel Montera to beat Rollie Otamias and Natan, 21-10, 21-11, and claim the men's doubles crown before capping his romp with a victory in the mixed doubles with Genalyn Damiel.

SMART Infinity president and CEO Polly Nazareno (middle) and CATS Motors Inc. Felix R. Ang (2nd from right) after signing the contract making Smart Infinity a presenter of the MercedesTrophy Philippines 2006 tournament May 15 at the Santa Elena Golf Club course. From left, tournament chair Emy Arcilla, Smart's Julie Carceller and Cats Motors Inc.'s Cesar Virtusio.

Teen triathletes take up cudgels for RP

By Jasmine Payo

WILL THE COUNTRY'S JUNIOR bets step up to the challenge?

With elite competitors likely out of the race, teen triathletes will lead the Philippine campaign in the 12th Legenda-Subic Bay International Triathlon today at the Binictican Heartbreak Hills in Subic, Zambales.

The participation of Southeast Asian Games bronze medalist Arland Macasieb remains doubtful due to a shin injury.

National champions Sandra Araullo and Ani de Leon might also skip the competition due to previous commitments.

Thus, a young field led by Mimi Lucas, LC Langit and Mikki Quilala will try to keep pace with veterans in the 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run competition.

Japan boasts a formidable cast with former champion Kodo Hiramatsu, Kenta Ando, Iwata Satoshi and Chikuchi Satomi.

Hong Kong will bank on Athens Olympian Daniel Lee Chi Wo and a strong pool of under-23 campaigners Lau Chin Ying, Joe Dick Tam, Chun Shing Hsie and Lung Chin Yin.

Other elite racers include Liam Scopes, Dylan McNiece and Hamish Johnson of New Zealand and Jandl Martin of Austria.

The sun could be up in Phoenix

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU REMEMBER ROBERT HORry and you'll be fine.

Tim Thomas did just that on Friday and he was more than fine.

Not too long ago, Horry hit a three at the buzzer, helping the Lakers win an NBA crown.

Only last Friday, Thomas also hit a three to help ignite an overtime victory for the Suns against the Lakers.

No, with that shot, the Suns have not won an NBA crown. Thomas' shot gave them a new lease on life. His shot tied the count at 105 in regulation play.

It happens all the time, a trey falling in the most unexpected moment, in the most unexpected place.

This wasn't Horry but Thomas, not a known artist from downtown.

This was Laker country and not sunshiny Phoenix, Thomas' turf.

Still, each time it happens, it takes a form more shrilling than surreal.

The time, place and the miracle-maker himself all become immaterial.

What becomes material is the fact itself, which makes myth a surrogate to reality.

When it happens, it hits you like a bolt of lightning. You are stunned. Speechless even.

The savoring of its sweet impact is delayed, yes, but still, you applaud when you come to your senses—even though deep down your heart if you are a Laker fan, you really hate that moment, dread that moment you swear to God you wished it never happened at all.

You forget that God is just, that we are all his children, that the sun is there for all of us to share its warmth, bounty.

Most times, games have a way with conning mankind.

But going back to that shot of the night.

Thomas fired the trey after receiving the most important pass of the night from Shawn Marion.

Marion was in the paint when he passed to Thomas. Just a tick or two before that, Marion could have snaked in a shot but the Suns needed a triple to force overtime.

So Marion, seeing Thomas standing unguarded at left quarter court, took the triple option and rifled the pass.

When Thomas received it, he saw Kwame Brown rushing to him like a wayward train. With a fake, Thomas sent Brown flying and out of harm's way.

Next, Thomas dribbled once, stepped once to his left and then heaved from downtown.

It would have been the shot that never was had Kobe Bryant impersonated Michael Jordan again.

With time expiring, Bryant's patented fade away jumper from 18 feet was a dud this time.

Had it went in, it would have duplicated Bryant's 17-foot, buzzer beater in Game 3 for a 2-1 Lakers lead in the first round of the playoffs.

But fate seemed unkind to the Lakers this evening.

With a three-point margin less than 30 seconds remaining in regulation, the Lakers could not cling on to it, allowing the Suns to grab three offensive rebounds in succession—the last one triggering Thomas' overtime-sending trey.

With the Lakers despairing, they looked all drained in the five-minute extension and no one seemed to have enough energy anymore to rescue the game.

As a result, the series is tied 3-3.

As a result, they go back to Phoenix, where the Lakers will find Raja Bell, the Suns' top gun, suiting up again.

And yes suddenly, the Suns, surrounded earlier by clouds of doubt, now seem to see the day clearing up as Game 7 approaches.

Today, if the Suns set their sights on their Mt. Everest, appearing unscalable to them just three days ago, the Lakers could be in trouble.

With roles being reversed inscrutably—the second-seeded Suns regaining their billing as heavy favorites to prevail—the seventh-seeded Lakers, as I said, need a miracle to accomplish what was really their impossible mission from the very start: an improbable advance to the second round playoffs.

Should Kobe Bryant and the Lakers absorb a miracle miss today, fine. They weren't expected to get this far anyway.

***

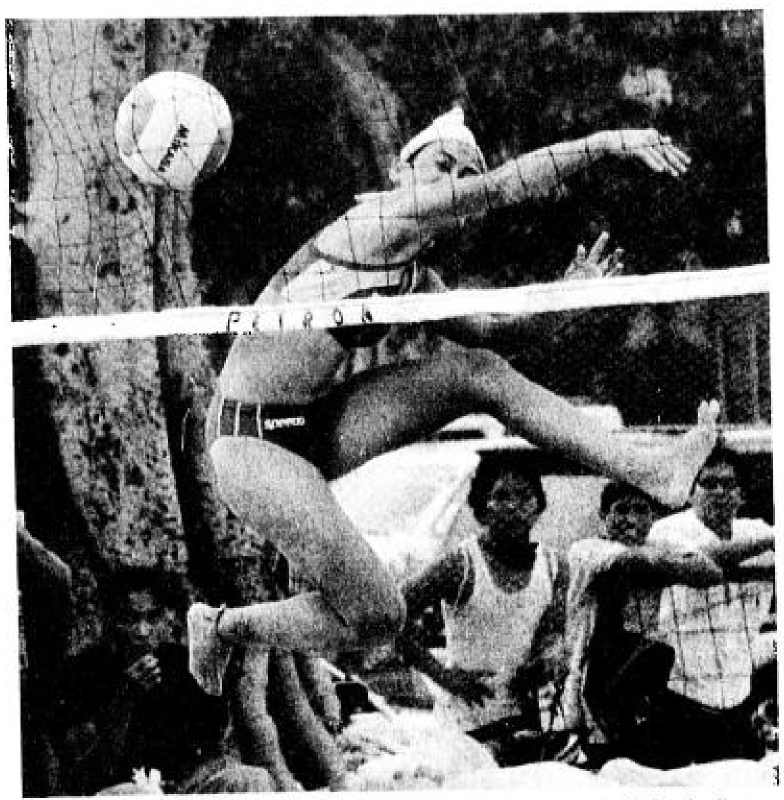
Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—JJ's Friend (2), Asunta De Rio/Ikaw Lamang (3), Marvelous Jay (5)
Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Mario Po (4), Best In Class (5), Hurry Prince (1), Ravishing Rally (3)
Race 3—(Ort/Tri)—Sutter's Royal (8), Ayan Ko (2), Santiago (3), Irish Connection (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Ort/Tri)— Quick Pick (9), Divine Right (10), Habagat (6), Kawilwili (8), Magiliw (2)
Race 5—(Tri)—Tinder (3) Marque (5), Sweet Connections (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Aminin (2), My Lady Hannah (10), Gold Money (1), Checklet (3), Jaw Breaker (7),
Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Trieste (4), Pine Needles (3), Bellin Bellin (1), Ever Mine Now (6)
Race 8—(Tri)—Joint Account (2), Batde Hero (3), Tiger Rally (5)
Race 9—(Ort/Tri)—Ferrarione (4), Romeus (3), Kaligatan (5), Makati Haven (2)
Race 10—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Speed King (4), Gemstone (1), Interceptor (7), Time Deposit (8), Yanong Pikit (2)
Race 11—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Magic Dancer (4), West 'N Wild (8), Centra (1), Mesmerize (3), Extreme Romance (2)
Race 12—(Ort/Tri)—Mas Que Nada/Shaolin (6), Top Of D'Line (4), Easy Rider (1), Reporter (8)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Casanova (7), Rockwell/Sunline (8), Queen Banana (6) Crystal City (9), Indian Boy (10), Parmesanminsan (5)

Imported Stakes Series today

SEVEN CLASSY IMPORTS LED BY REcent big winner Trieste (Aus) headline the field of challengers for the second leg of the 2006 Philracom Imported Stakes Series today at the Santa Ana Park. The P600,000 Group 3 event sponsored by the Philracom will be supported by the running of the P350,000 Philracom-NPJAI 1st Jockey's Day Cup and four other added-money Medal Taces backed by the new Philippine Jockeys Association. Trieste is coming off an impressive victory last week at the other track.



CARLA Santos spikes the ball during the Petron Beach Volleyball at the Baywalk in Manila. REM ZAMORA

Bulls battle Phone Pals

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N Text
6:35 p.m.—Coca Cola vs Alaska

GETTING THROWN OUT BRINGS **good fortunes for coach Yeng Guiao. Yet he maintains it isn't among his tactics to fire up Red Bull.**

"I don't remember a game I got ejected that we lost. There's some sort of good luck with my ejection," said Guaio, who got tossed Friday for physically assaulting a referee.

With Guiao monitoring the game from the dugout, the Bulls took control in the second half and blasted Air21 with a 113-87 decision in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup.

"The boys showed they can win without me, that they'll follow the game plan even without me," said Guiao.

The temperamental tactician hopes the Bulls will showcase the same intensity when they battle Talk 'N Text at 4:10 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Phone Pals slotman Asi Taulava will try to get his rhythm back after going scoreless for the first time in his career against Alaska.

It was a surprising meltdown for Taulava after exploding with 30 points and 16 rebounds to capture the Most Valuable Player plum in the All-Star Game last weekend.

"Maybe he just got tired from the All-Star Game, it was over fatigue," said Phone Pals coach Derick Pumaren. "But expect a better performance from him and the team."

The Coca-Cola Tigers and the Alaska Aces will also vie to improve their marks when they clash at 6:35 p.m. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Soaring Lady Falcons eye 4th straight win

STREAKING ADAMSON TRIES TO ADD FAR Eastern U to its growing list of victims as it shoots for its fourth straight victory at the resumption of women's volleyball action in the V-League presented by Shakey's at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Led by power-hitting Cherry Rose Macatangay, the Lady Falcons ripped the San Sebastian Stags in straight sets, 25-15, 25-17, 26-24, last Monday to share the lead with the De La Salle Lady Archers, the defending champions, with three wins each in this event presented by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Mikasa, Accel, ABC-5 and ABC Sports.

The San Marcelino-based spikers are expected to ride on Macatangay's power game again as Adamson clashes with FEU in the 6 p.m. game.

"She's our source of strength," said Adamson coach Dulce Pante referring to Macatangay, easily the country's top volleyball player today.

PUP, Acsat in title-tiff

LORNA DE LA CRUZ AND CHARIZZA CASTRO of Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat) are back in the finals of the 2006 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Championships.

They posted a 21-15 upset win over national pool members Thelmarie Barina and Danilyn Laquigan in the crossover semifinals yesterday in the second leg of the quarterly series at the Manila Baywalk.

This put them in a best-of-three finals showdown with Polytechnic University of the Philippines campaigners Kristia Ricana and Kathy Sotejo in the beach volleyball festival backed by Petron and the Manila Sports Council, with support from Acsat, Speedo (official ourfitter), Mikasa (official ball) and Action and Fitness Magazine.

Ricana and Sotejo crushed Sheena Teves and Khate de Borja, 21-88.

The 22-year-old De la Cruz said it was their low passing shots which worked wonders in their game. After Barina and Laquigan took an 8-7 lead, De la Cruz took advantage of a pair of net errors by their foes to grab the lead at 11-8 with her powerful smashes.

The wily ACSAT tandem then took a 15-9 edge following a couple of placement shots to the back side by Castro.

Army batters first to finals

PHILIPPINE ARMY DREW CRUCIAL RBIs from Fidel Moncera and Ony Bacarisas to trip arch rival Philippine Air Force, 3-2, and grab the first final berth in the Philippine National Open men's softball championship at the PUP grounds yesterday.

Moncera and Bacarisas, both many time internationalists, got away with an RBI each in the fourth and fifth innings as the Armymen came from behind to nip the Airmen in a duel of elimination round top-placers.

Winning the first game in the Page System semifinals, the Armymen gained outright entry into the finals set this afternoon at the Rizal Ballpark.

Rizal Technological University and Polytechnic University of the Philippines fight in the other semifinal game this morning with the winner facing Philippine Air Force in a knockout battle for the right to play Philippine Army in the finals.

Also set this morning is the semifinal round in women's play.

Adamson-Air21 and UP-Air Force clash for the first finals seat while Manila and Bacolod Juniors battle in the lower half of the semis tussles.

The Armymen needed Moncera's and Bacarisas' exploits in the fourth and fifth innings as Romy Bumagat belted a two-run homer in the third inning to give the Airmen a 2-1 edge.

Roger Rojas completed Army's victory as he put up a superb job in the mound in the closing innings.

La Salle-Ateneo golfest May 15

THE MOVE TO STRENGTHEN GOLF AS A school sport gets a major boost in the continuation of the La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic on May 15-16 at the north and south courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

While playing for their respective teams, alumni and students of both schools as well as their affiliates who will be joining the tournament are also taking up the cause of promoting golf and pave the way for its inclusion in the UAAP calendar.

The financial backing of PLDT and Smart Communications has also succeeded in providing a four-year scholarship in each university to golfing talents from the junior ranks.

Preparations for the dual meet are in full swing with both camps already receiving entries for all eight handicap classes. There will be points awarded to the top four finishers which will count in the determining the series winner.

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- AAP AUTOCROSS
MAY 7 (Macapagal Avenue, Parañaque City)
- CONFERENCE ON ALTERNATIVE FUELS
MAY 8 (Hotel Philippine Plaza)
- 1st AAP INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 10 (Valley Golf & Country Club)
- AAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 11 (The Forum, PICC)
- 1st AAP AUTO SHOW
MAY 12-14 (The Forum, PICC)
- FAST LANE: AAP BOOK LAUNCH
MAY 12 (The Forum, PICC)
- CAR CLUBS HERITAGE DISPLAY
MAY 12-14 (Road 4, Forum, PICC)
- 4 x 4 COMPETITION
MAY 13 (Boom Grounds, CCP Complex)
- DENSO KARTING CHAMPIONSHIP
MAY 14 (Kart Trak, Boom Grounds, CCP Complex)
- AAP MOTORSPORTS AWARDS
MAY 14 (Forum 1, PICC)

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Cavs nip Wizards in OT

Jones buries series-winner; Spurs oust Kings

WASHINGTON—WITH HIS TEAM down by one in the last 15 seconds, Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James approached the Wizards' Gilbert Arenas, who was on the stripe trying to add to Washington's one-point lead.

JONES: Clutch AP

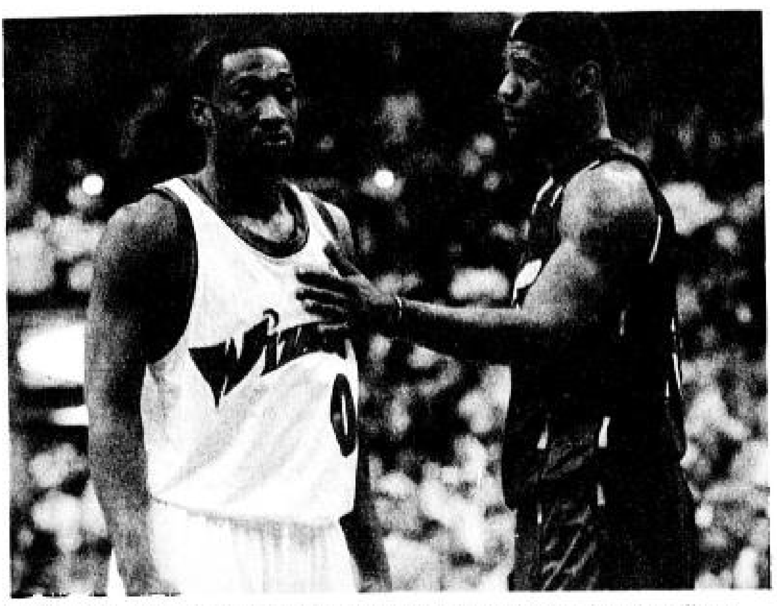
"You miss both of those free throws and the game is over," James warned his series nemesis.

Arenas flubbed both tries and James' words—with a little help from seldom-used Damon Jones—turned out to be prophetic.

Jones hit a long jumper from the right corner with 4.8 seconds remaining to lift Cleveland into the Eastern Conference semis with a 114-113 overtime win over Washington in Game 6 of their series.

"It is all about opportunities," Jones said. "I told these guys it is going to be a long game. They double teammed LeBron (James) and I was wide open. Thank God it went in."

All-Star James collected 32 points, seven rebounds and seven assists as the fourth-seeded Cavaliers won their first playoff series since 1993, setting up a matchup with the two-time defending Eastern Conference champion and top-seeded Detroit Pistons.


CLEVELAND'S LeBron James (right) talks to Washington's Gilbert Arenas before the latter's crucial free throw. REUTERS

"It took me two years to get to get here and I didn't want to come here and just be happy to get into the playoffs," James said.

Hardly used throughout the series, Jones was inserted into the game for the first time with Cleveland trailing, 113-112, with 14 seconds left and his team inbounding just past half-court.

Larry Hughes took the inbounds pass and quickly got the ball to James, who was immediately double-teamed by the Jared Jefferies and Arenas.

Sensing the pressure, James passed the ball on the right sideline to Hughes, who flipped it to Jones for the clutch jumper.

Without any timeouts, the Wizards raced the ball upcourt and got a good look, but Caron Butler's 3-pointer from the right wing hit the front of the rim.

Cleveland had a 107-104 advantage in regulation after Murray sank two free throws with 9.9 seconds remaining.

Arenas, who finished with 36 points on 14-of-27 shooting, had the ball stripped out of his hands and out of bounds after racing up the court. However, he caught the ensuing inbounds more than seven feet behind the 3-point line and sank the shot to force overtime.

In the extra session, Arenas had a chance to add to a 113-112 lead for Washington with 15 seconds left but missed two free throws.

In Sacramento, California, Tony Parker scored 31 points as San Antonio advanced to the Western Conference semifinals with a 105-83 win over the Kings in Game Six of their series.

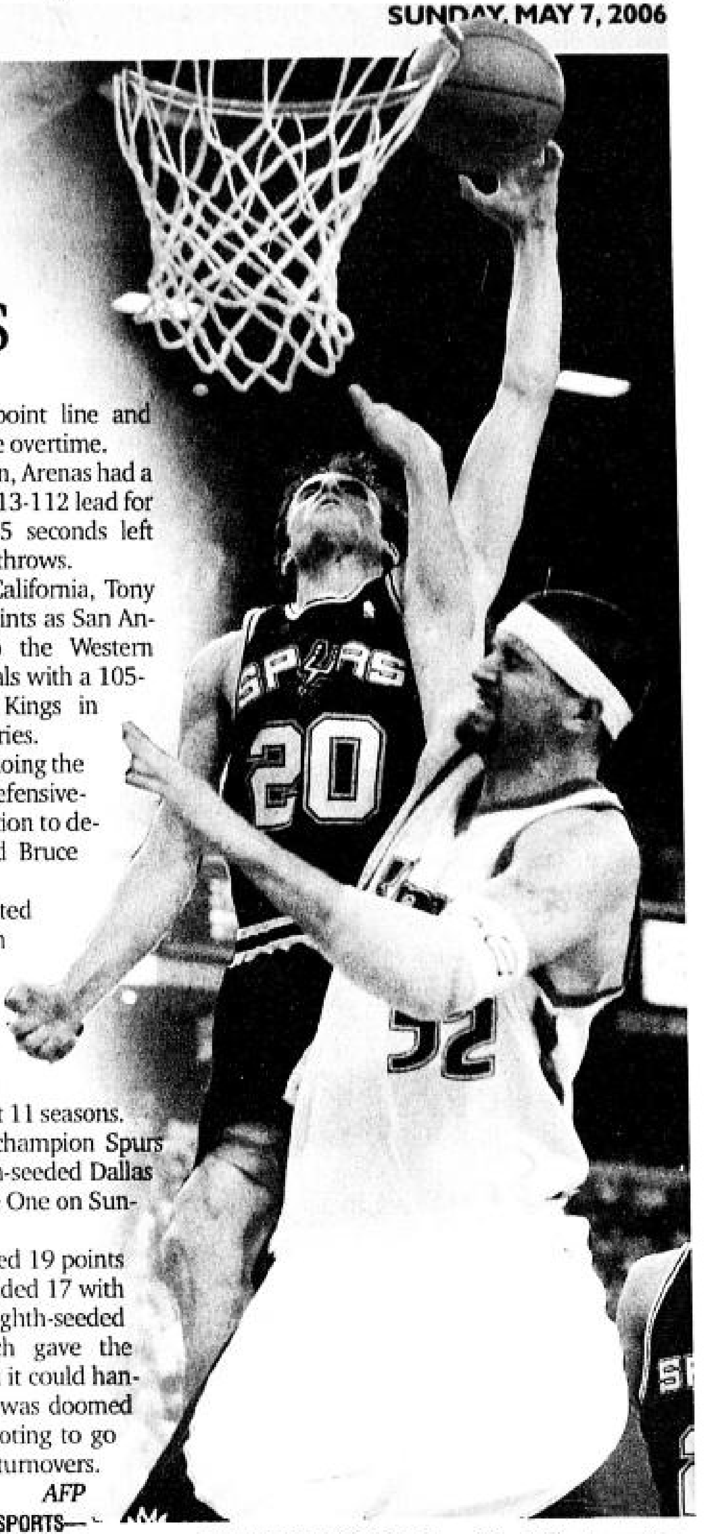
"It was about us doing the best job we could defensively and paying attention to detail," Spurs forward Bruce Bowen said.

Bowen contributed 16 points and Tim Duncan 15 for top-seeded San Antonio, which has advanced in the playoffs for the 10th time in the last 11 seasons.

The defending champion Spurs will host the fourth-seeded Dallas Mavericks in Game One on Sunday.

Mike Bibby scored 19 points and Bonzi Wells added 17 with 11 rebounds for eighth-seeded Sacramento, which gave the best in the West all it could handle but ultimately was doomed by 41 percent shooting to go along with 20 turnovers. *AFP*

- **NBA on SOLAR SPORTS**—
LA Lakers vs Phoenix (1 p.m., replay at 6:30 p.m.)



SAN ANTONIO'S Manu Ginobili attempts a dunk against Sacramento's Brad Miller. AFP

'Dog-trained' Ronaldinho has World Cup's spotlight focused on him

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—HE LEARNED HIS first moves with the help of a mixed-breed dog named Bombom. Today he is the best soccer player in the world, praised by Pele and Diego Maradona.

All eyes will be on Ronaldinho when the 2006 World Cup begins next month.

No other player will attract as much attention as the Brazilian midfielder during the monthlong tournament in Germany—thanks to his nifty skills and dazzling moves. And to Bombom.

"He loved to play with me," Ronaldinho said. "When all my friends got bored, I would go play with him.

"We would stay battling for the ball all day. I had to work hard on my moves to keep him from getting the ball."

Bombom—and a soccer ball—were by Ronaldinho's side at all times as he grew up in a poor family in the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, at a time when he didn't even dream of playing in a World Cup.

"We were inseparable, he was my great companion," Ronaldinho said of Bombom, which means "chocolate candy" in Portuguese.

And when Bombom wasn't available, Ronaldinho would find other opponents to test his skills.

"When it was raining, I would stay inside the house dribbling past chairs and tables," he said. "I always spent most of my time as a kid with a soccer ball. That helped me become good at it."

Now 26 and in his prime, Ronaldinho will enter the World Cup as the tournament's biggest star.

He has won the last two Fifa player of the year awards, and has led FC Barcelona to two consecutive Spanish league titles and to the Champions League final.

Few dispute his status at the best player in the world.

Maradona said recently that Ronaldinho is in a different class from other players, and that it's "fun to watch him play."

Pele celebrates his countryman just as highly, saying Ronaldinho is the player who gives fans "the most joy."

Ronaldinho enchants everyone with his impressive skills and nifty tricks—from the no-look pass to the "elastic" dribble, in which he fakes moving the ball in one direction and suddenly pulls it back the other way.

"I'm always trying to invent new things," he said recently. "But my goal is to win the World Cup again, I really don't care about giving a show or scoring a lot of goals."

Ronaldinho will be the focal point as Brazil goes for a second straight world title—and sixth overall. No other country has more than three.

He was a member of the squad that won the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea, playing five matches and scoring two goals. *AP*

Rain stalls Wie's charge in Korea

INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA—Play at the Asian Tour's SK Telecom Open was called off Saturday due to heavy rain, postponing Michelle Wie's first third round in a professional men's tournament.

WIE: Tied for 17th AP

The Hawaii-born teenager made her first cut in a men's tournament Friday after shooting rounds of 70 and 69 at the Sky 72 Golf Club course to sit at 5-under at the halfway mark and tied for 17th.

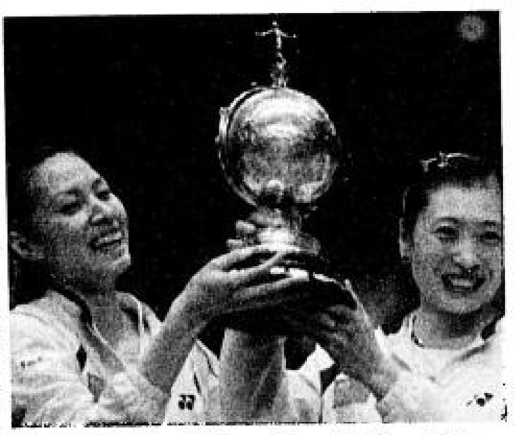
Several players started the third round Saturday morning before torrential rain forced them under cover. Wie was at the tee when the rain hit. After a delay of almost three hours, course inspectors declared the course unplayable, with many bunkers heavily waterlogged.

The tournament is now shortened to three rounds, organizers said, and play is scheduled to resume Sunday with Iain Steel of Malaysia and Prom Meesawat of Thailand holding the lead at 11-under.

Despite the disruption, Wie remained focused on picking up where she left off Friday.

"I'll try to play another good solid round. I will try my hardest like I've been doing," she said. "If I play well, that's great, if I don't win that's OK."

The SK Telecom Open is the eighth men's professional event for Wie. *AP*


CHAMPS: China'S Zhang Ning (right) and Xie Xingfang hold up the trophy after they beat the Netherlands, 3-0, in the Uber Cup finals.

Kin bid Earl Woods g'bye

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—FRIENDS AND relatives came to the Tiger Woods Learning Center on Friday to privately remember Earl Woods, the golf star's father who died this week after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Earl Woods was best known for the impact he had on his son, who began hitting balls at age 3 after watching his father practice his swing in the family's garage. He died on Wednesday at his Cypress home. He was 74.

Mourners arrived at the memorial and reception after the burial at a cemetery in Cypress. Those who came included NBA great Charles Barkley, US PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, Nike chair Phil Knight, US volleyball player and model Gabrielle Reece and her husband, pro surfer Laird Hamilton.

Limousines delivered Tiger Woods, his wife, Elin, and his mother, Kultida.

Earl Woods, who was more determined to raise a good son than a great golfer, was the driving force behind Tiger Woods' phenomenal career.

A smoker who had heart surgery in 1986, Earl Woods was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1998 and was treated with radiation. But the cancer returned in 2004. *AP*

Katigbak, Imperial top BMW golfest leg

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—RETIRED colonel Katy Katigbak signed for an 8-over-par 80 worth 38 points on Friday to win the Class A division of the third leg of the BMW Golf Cup International presented by Prestige Cars BMW at the Sta. Elena layout here.

Playing to a handicap of 10, Katigbak, a perennial member of Mount Malarayat's Federation team, rebounded from a 42 in his front side with a 38 coming home to nip Jaime Fernandez, who shot a gross 79, by one under the stableford scoring system.

Mark Anthony Imperial, a physician by profession, submitted a gross 94 for 41 points to rule Class B by a point over Everette Gualberto, who turned in an 84 for 40 markers.

Nancy Co, the BMW Golf Cup World Finals champ in Mexico four years ago, assembled an 89 for 41 points and won the Ladies' Division over Josefina Palumbarit, who was good for 91 and 28 points.

The top three placers in each category will advance to the National Finals slated in October at Eagleridge Golf and Country Club.

The 18-hole event was the third in a series that will determine the RP team members to the BMW Golf Cup World Finals in Fancourt, South Africa. The events are being supported by Corporate Guarantee and Insurance Co., Makati Shangri-La, Kerastase, Petron and Mizuno.

Edgardo Garcia tallied a gross 93 for 31 points to claim the Guest Division crown even as Rico Brizuela (83-36 points), Rico Tantoco (93-40 points) and Charie Zamora (111-26 points) also earned slots to the Eagleridge event.

Schumacher: I need help against Alonso

NUERBURGRING, GERMANY—JUST winning Sunday's European Grand Prix will not be enough for Michael Schumacher, he would like some help from other drivers to catch championship leader Fernando Alonso.

Schumacher trails the world champion by 15 points after four races.

"I wish there would be a few other drivers up there fighting to win at the moment who could take some important points away.

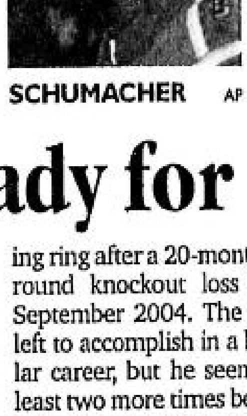
"But it doesn't look like this is the case," the 37-year-old German told reporters on Friday.

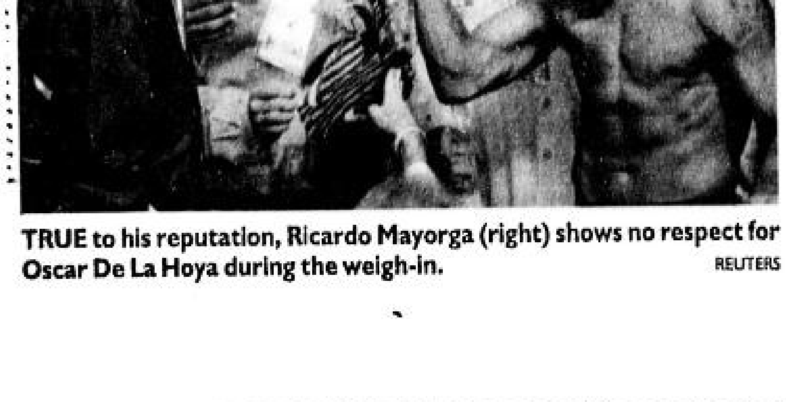
Schumacher won last month's San Marino Grand Prix ahead of Alonso to make up two points on the Spaniard but at that pace it would take him eight victories to catch Renault's championship leader. There are 14 races left.

"I'm reasonably happy with the car," said Schumacher, who finished behind Alonso in Friday's afternoon practice.

"It looks like we'll be competitive. If we get everything 100 percent right, I think we've got a chance (to win)," the seven-times champion added." Alexander Wurz was fastest in both Friday's sessions for Williams, but the Austrian test driver will not race on Sunday.

Alonso has finished in the top two in all grands prix so far this season. *Reuters*


SCHUMACHER AP



TRUE to his reputation, Ricardo Mayorga (right) shows no respect for Oscar De La Hoya during the weigh-in. REUTERS

De La Hoya ready for match vs 'nuttiest' foe

LAS VEGAS—RICARDO MAYORGA SMOKES cigarettes in the ring after particularly satisfying victories. "El Matador" wears a bullfighting outfit before his fights, and he revels in insulting his opponents' families, challenging their ethnicities and questioning their sexual orientations.

In short, the former Nicaraguan gang member is one of the nuttiest men in a profoundly irrational profession. And he has little in common with Oscar De La Hoya, the cultured epitome of businesslike fisticuffs—except a desire for a career-revitalizing win when they meet in Las Vegas on Saturday.

De La Hoya seems eager to be back in the boxing ring after a 20-month absence since his ninth-round knockout loss to Bernard Hopkins in September 2004. The Golden Boy has nothing left to accomplish in a long, frequently spectacular career, but he seems determined to fight at least two more times before devoting himself fully to his myriad interests outside the ring.

So why would De La Hoya risk his health and reputation against Mayorga, of all people? Perhaps it's exactly because Mayorga is just the type of fighter who would insult De La Hoya's wife and Latino heritage, filling any motivational gaps for a fighter who's already done everything.

"He's done his job already," De La Hoya said. "He's made me train already as hard as I can. He's motivated me already to be the best fighter I can be, so there's no way I can fall in whatever kind of trap he's trying to set for me.

"I already have my plan of attack. I already have my game plan set, so whatever little games he's trying to play, he can't play them with me."

De La Hoya (37-4, 29 KOs) has maintained his sterling career and a largely unblemished face by avoiding any of the flat-out brawls that take their toll on any fighter. De La Hoya says he'll stand toe-to-toe with Mayorga (28-5-1, 23 KOs) at the MGM Grand, trading power punches for the WBC light middleweight title. *AP*

Ozamiz keeps clean record

OZAMIZ CITY—REIGNING TITLIST OZAMIZ Cotta kept its clean slate in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship Friday night by whipping visiting Pangasinan Hundred Islands, 90-79, at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

The Ozamiz cagers of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog notched their fifth straight win behind a balanced scoring attack.

Playmaker Bob Cozy Ilanga returned after missing the first four games to spark Ozamiz's romp in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

Ilanga finished with 10 points, five assists and two steals.

Veterans Billy Bansil and Orly Alvarado contributed 12 points apiece while Boyet Guerrero and Gerry Cavan chipped in 11 and 10, respectively.

After a tight first quarter, Ozamiz began pulling away in the second quarter, 45-30.

The Hundred Islands of the Pangasinan Amateur Basketball League led by its president, Mayor Hernani Braganza, and team manger Rosendo So suffered its fifth loss in six games.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 90—Bansil 12, Alvarado 12, Guerrero 11, Ilanga 10, Cavan 10, Basco 9, Cabigkis 7, Liangco 6, Yabut 6, Samplio 4, Alberto 4, Lapera 0, Delina 0.

PANGASINAN 79—Ruiz 14, Rol Menor 12, Tolentino 10, Lopez 9, Balares 8, Aquino 8, Re Menor 6, Tiongson 5, Marzan 3, Codamon 2, Zagala 0, Tan 0, Catacutan 0.

Quarters: 24-18, 45-30, 66-54, 90-79

TYSON Sy scampers out of his car after losing control and landing on the danger zone in the qualifying event. ROGER MARGALLO

Sy zooms to victory in Asian F3 opener

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—FILIPINO ACE TYson Sy, feeling at ease with his new car, zoomed to victory Saturday in the opening round of the 2006 Asian Formula Three Series before an ecstatic crowd at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Relegated to fourth spot on the starting grid after completing just four laps in the race for pole position earlier in the day due to a faulty brake, Sy, 18, zoomed past qualifying leaders Irisman John O'Hara and fellow Filipino Dado Pena at the green flag and drove trouble-free the rest of the way.

"I didn't think it would happen that way. Buti na lang, safe, nakauna agad," said Sy, the lead driver of Speedtech Asia who clocked 16 minutes, 33.559 seconds, nearly five seconds ahead of second placer Dillon Battisini of Britain.

Battistini, sixth in qualifying aboard his JA Motorsports car, also squeezed past O'Hara and Pena at the start but his bid to catch up with Sy got dimmer as the 12-lap race progressed.

"I'm very satisfied considering it's my first race in a while," said Battistini, 28, who competed in his first race in nearly three years.

Briton James Winslow of JA Motorsports, who edged Sy by one point en route to a third-place finish overall last year, salvaged third spot on the podium, coming all the way from fifth on the starting grid. He clocked 16:40.402.

O'Hara eventually finished fifth, just behind Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Speedtech Asia, last year's promotions class winner, while Pena dropped out after hitting the car of fellow Filipino Pepon Marave, of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, in lap two.

Only eight of the 14 starters managed to finish the 12-lap race, with newcomer Bagoes Hermanto of Indonesia's R&W team coming in sixth, followed by lady driver Michelle Bumgarner, 16, who is trying her hand at Formula Three racing after ruling last year's Asian karting championship.

Bumgarner, driving for Team Goddard, topped the promotions class for cars with chassis built in 2000 and below, followed by JP Tuason of Tuason Racing and Gaby Dela Merced who completed just seven laps.

Saturday's order of finish will be the grid positions of the starters in Round 2 Sunday morning of the series backed by PLDT myDSL, PLDT myPAD, Yokohama Tires, Lima City Hotel, Denso Spark Plugs, Big Shot Billiards, Suzuki, Oxy Enhanced Water, Tuason Racing School, Ford and Mossimo. Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net for updates.

Team Goddard eyes 3 crowns

TEAM GODDARD, WITH DRIVERS DAdo Peña and Michele Bumgarner, targets a triple crown in the Asian Formula 3 Series, going on at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. The 18-year-old Peña, who is sponsored by PLDTMyPad, MyDSL, Hanjin, Mossimo, MOF, Quick and Fast Logistics, Manila Speedzone and motorracingindustry.com, will be gunning for the AF3 expert and overall class championship. The 16-year-old Asian Karting Queen Bumgarner, supported by DOT, Oakley, Accel, Petron XCS, Prive Hair, City Kart Racing, Powerade and Gold's Gym, will be compete in the promotional class.

PBA Jr highlights Sporty Summer

NORMAN Black with cage clinic participants

REIGNING TITLIST QUEZON CITY-BATANG Welcoat banners the 2006 edition of the Burlington Batang PBA Junior Summer League that comes off the wraps at 11 a.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Twelve other teams, including four guest squads, are out to thwart Quezon City 's bid for a three-peat in the event serving as main fare of Sporty Summer 06 for kids aged 9-12 years old that started in 2004.

Sporty Summer 06 was launched by Burlington, PBA properties and top badminton coaches so the youth can spend their school break fruitfully.

According to Ruddy Tan, general manager of Burlington Industries Phils. Inc. and godfather of the RP Youth cage team since 2002, said they want the students to engage in their favorite sports in the company of their idols and top coaches and trainers.

Multi-titled coach Norman Black has been tapped anew as tournament commissioner of the meet that runs until June 14.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby advised that the following sales counselors have been terminated by PACIFIC PLANS, INC.:

Name	Termination Date
Evangeline D. Geslani	January 14, 2006
Raquel N. Lubos	December 29, 2005
Arlene Macabio	January 16, 2006
Emma N. Quodala	January 16, 2006
Ma. Teresa R. Rosales	December 29, 2005
Marlie P. Salvador	March 2, 2006
Wilfreda O. Caingcoy	March 30, 2006

The Company will not honor any transactions and/or dealings entered into by them as of the date of Termination.

Lifetime PLANS
A division of:
PACIFIC PLANS, INC.

(PDI – May 7, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Printing and Delivery of EASE Modules

Date: April 20, 2006
Loan No.: 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the Printing and Delivery of Effective/Alternative Secondary Education (EASE) Modules.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Printing and Delivery of the following:
    - 2.1 Lot 1: EASE Modules for First Year: 34,680 copies
    - 2.2 Lot 2: EASE Modules for Second Year: 37,995 copies
    - 2.3 Lot 3: EASE Modules for Third Year: 36,210 copies
    - 2.4 Lot 4: EASE Modules for Fourth Year: 44,370 copies
3. International Shopping (IS) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage: One Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries. A Bidder may opt to bid on any or all of the lots required.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting **May 3, 2006** at the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, at Tel. Nos. (632)636-6543/633-9343 or at Fax No (632)635-6542. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.
5. The Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders to the address given in paragraph 5 upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check.
6. Bids must be delivered to Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines on or before **10:00 a.m. on May 30, 2006.** All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2.0% of the total bid amount, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the given address, time and date.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **May 17, 2006** at **10:00 a.m.** at the same address indicated in paragraph 4.
8. The DepED reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract(s) without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.
9. The Department of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR
BAC Vice Chairman

(PDI – APRIL 30 & MAY 7, 2006)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT

"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Installation of the remaining works of the Aus-AID project (Sub-System 16. Central Business District Area)
Location:	Baguio City
Brief Description	The project involves the installation of BWD supplied pipes and appurtenances namely pipelines ranging from 50mm to 40mm diameter – 3,717 lm, valves ranging from 50mm to 200mm diameter – 11 units; Pressure Reducing Valves, 75mm – 1 unit; Service taps, 25mm-104 units, Pavement demolition and restoration, 4,940 sq.m
Revised Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 7,928,450.29
Contract Duration	250 working days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the Contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel available for the prosecution of the contract. The contractor must own the following minimum required equipment for the contract (1) backhoe with breaker and (2) elf truck. The BAC will use a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification on the lowest calculated bid

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility by interested bidders and simultaneous issuance of Eligibility Forms to interested bidders.	May 15-18, 2006
2. Submission of Eligibility documents	May 30, 2006
3 Results of Eligibility Check	June 6, 2006

The BAC will issue Eligibility Forms to interested bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the BAC Secretariat at the Baguio Water District, Purok BWD, 003 Brgy. Marcoville, Baguio City and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000 00) to the Baguio Water District Cashier. Interested bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address and on the due date as specified above

Bid documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000 00) to the BWD Cashier

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) Engr. Salvador M. Royeca
Chairman, BWD BAC-Projects

(PDI – May 7 & 14, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

PHILIPPINES
JUDICIAL REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT
Loan No. 7191 PH
BAC-JRSP-03-ICB-WORKS

This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, issue no. 616 of 16 October 2003.

The *Government of the Philippines has received a loan* from the *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development* toward the cost of the Judicial Reform Support Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *loan* to payments under the Contract for the Construction/Renovation of the Angeles City Hall of Justice.

The *Supreme Court of the Philippines* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction/Renovation of the Angeles City Hall of Justice. The delivery/construction period is from September 2006 to December 2007.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits of January 1999*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Dir. Nestor U. Venturillo, Head, Bids and Awards Committee for the Action Program for Judicial Reform (BAC–APJR) Secretariat, e-mail: nestor_venturillo@supremecourt.gov.ph and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Qualifications requirements include: To qualify for award of the Contract, bidders shall meet the following minimum qualifying criteria:

- (a) an average annual financial amount of construction work over the period of five (5) years of at least multiple of two (2);
- (b) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least two (2) works of a nature and complexity equivalent to the Works over the period of five (5) years (to comply with this requirement, works cited should be at least 100 percent complete);
- (c) proposals for the timely acquisition (own, lease, hire, etc.) of the essential equipment;
- (d) a Project Manager with ten years experience in works of an equivalent nature and volume, including no less than three years as Manager; and
- (e) liquid assets and/or credit facilities, net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the Contract, of no less than Php70,000,000.00.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee Php30,000.00 or in *convertible currency*. The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

Bids must be delivered to the address below at 2:30 p.m. on 19 June 2006. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2:31 p.m., 19 June 2006.

A Pre-Bid conference will be conducted on 29 May 2006 at exactly 2:30 p.m. at the Supreme Court Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security amounting to Php3,700,000.00 *or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency*.

The address(es) referred to above is 6th Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila Philippines, tel. nos. 552-95-84 and fax nos. 552-95-86.

(Sgd.) CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Deputy Court Administrator and
Chairman, BAC-APJR

(PDI – April 30 & May 7, 2006)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

1. **Kilowatthour Meters, CL 02, Rated 5(15) A, Single Phase**
2. **Distribution Line Hardwares, Concrete Poles, wood poles and wires**

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
    - a. Company Profile
    - b. Business Registration
    - c. Business Permit
    - d. BIR/VAT Certificate
    - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
    - f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years
    - g. Financial Statement
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements – May 22, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – May 7 & 14, 2006)

UCPB Savings

UCPB SAVINGS BANK, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the UCPB Savings Bank, Inc. will be held on 24 May 2006, 4:00 p.m. at the Board Room, 15th Floor, UCPB Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Proof of Notice of Meeting
- III. Certification of Quorum
    - a) Approved of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders Meeting held on March 02, 2004
    - b) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Stockholders Meeting held on April 25, 2005
- IV. President's Annual Report
- V. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements
- VI. Ratification of Acts of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers
- VII. Election of the Members of the Board of Directors
- VIII. Other Matters
- IX. Adjournment

(Sgd.) Atty. JOSE A. BARCELON
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–May 7, 2006)

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Naga lifts covers off Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY—A TOTAL OF 24 records fell by the wayside last year, when the Palarong Pambansa was held in Iloilo City.

Organizers of this year's staging here hope to better that mark.

Refusing to reel from the absence of President Arroyo, who turned down a second straight Palaro invitation because of a prior Middle East commitment, the school-based meet unfurls at the Metro Naga Sports Complex brimming with hope and confidence.

"To our mind, nothing can replace the Palaro as the genuine grassroots program," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez in a media briefing yesterday. Ramirez was joined in the briefing by education secretary Fe Hidalgo and Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo.

The PSC takes a backseat to the DepEd, which will be the event's major organizer this year.

The absence of Arroyo, who was here in the 2002 staging of the event and in Tubod, Lanao del Norte during the 2003 edition, doesn't mean a lack of top government officials.

Vice President Noli De Castro has confirmed his arrival while political bigwigs such as Sen. Joker Arroyo, who hails from this province, and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, will attend the opening ceremonies.

A total of 17 sports will be calendared in the P54-million, Bayantel-backed meet.

The DepEd received funding from the budget department, according to Task Force Palaro head Len Toledo.

The funds were distributed to the regional delegations, technical management and to the host city, which got financial assistance worth P3 million.

Hidalgo said the regions received varying amounts based primarily on their proximity to Naga City. She cited ARMM or Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, which got P2.5 million to cover its transportation needs.

Robredo vowed to help the hosts improve on a fifth-place finish in elementary and a sixth-place performance in high school during the 2005 Palaro.

Southern Tagalog-Calabarzon is the elementary defending champion while NCR holds the high school crown.

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Deadline for registration is on May 13, 2006.

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XTRA MILE Challenge

HEADING HOME: Zhazha Alba of Manila runs from second base to home, making herself part of Manila's 6-0 demolition of Bulacan during the Philippine Softball Open Championships. ROMY HOMILLADA

Trips to US, England await NTCC champions

By Jong Arcano

ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIPS TO PRESTIGIOUS events in England and the United States await the winners of the second National Tournament of Club Champions slated May 15-19 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club course in Cavite.

Presented by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. and INQUIRER Golf for the second straight year, the NTCC features champions of 30 golf clubs all over the country who will compete for one of the most coveted prizes in local golf.

The men's division champion will be able to witness the HSBC world match play tilt in Wentworth, England, this September while the ladies division winner will travel to New Jersey this July for the HSBC LPGA match play.

At the close of listing yesterday, there were 25 entries each in both divisions. Making it last were John Hay bets Shean Bedi and Nanette Filler.

Tournament sponsors are Sta. Lucia Realty, Callaway as the official apparel, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Titleist, Travel Club, Pacific Air Media, Isuzu as the official vehicle and Microtel as the official hotel. Platonic, the first locally-assembled golf cart, is a hole-in-one sponsor.

Official participants will be presented in the Champions' Ball to be hosted by PDI President Sandy Romualdez and HSBC President and CEO Warner Manning.

The first round is scheduled on Monday, May 15 at the Dye course with the all male entries advancing to the first round which is actually a seeding stage for the Round-of-32. Only the top 16 among the ladies, however, will advance to the tournament proper.

Tuesday, May 16 is a long day for the men as the survivors will also play the Round-of-16 in the afternoon.

The quarterfinals is slated on Wednesday, May 17, the semifinals on Thursday, May 18 and the finals on Friday, May 19.

Southwoods makes Ford grand finals

THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS HIGHLIGHTED a gross score 10-under-par with a scintillating putting performance to run away with the Luzon West Satellite Finals of the Ford National Team Shootout title recently at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

The foursome of Claudine Garcia, Glo Domingo and Nini and Danny Samaniego built a net 57 via the modified scramble format to humble the 25-team field. Wielding hot putters, the ladies of the Manila Southwoods squad did not score a single bogey on their cards.

Riviera's Raul Ilagan, Mac Panuncialman, Rosie Guerrero and Carlo Legaspi and Arnold Jumalon, Raffy Juan, Manfred Guanko and Wilbert Uy finished tied with a 65 gross, with the first foursome winning by countback. They will join Southwoods in the Grand Finals.

Marko Sarmiento, Florentino Palacio, Mark Garcia and Wayne Congmon of Cebu Country Club fired a gross score of 61 to lead the three teams that will be making the trip to The Orchard and Sta. Elena for the finals.

The Ford National Team Shootout is presented by Ford Group Philippines in cooperation with Pharmaton. Sponsored by Mizuno, Rudy Project, VMV Group, St. Francis, Sea Air, Citibank, Asian Spirit, Adidas Eye ware, Bosch, Golf Pro and Raymundo Trophies. For more info please visit: www.golfdigest.ph.

Almost suspended

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

KEANNA Reeves: "They took pity on me."

KEANNA REEVES, BIG WINNER IN THE celebrity edition of the reality series "Pinoy Big Brother," is the latest star to be disciplined by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Reeves was censured because of a joke she had cracked on ABS-CBN's Sunday afternoon show biz gab fest, "The Buzz" aired April 16.

Known for her malapropisms (for example, "KFC" for "KSP"), Reeves, during the "Buzz" interview, recounted an error she had made in the "PBB" house: Instead of, "It's your loss," she said "It yours."

"My mistake," Reeves told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday, "was that I translated it literally to Tagalog... eat yours or *kainin mo ang sarili mo*. I didn't realize it had double meaning because I'm Cebuana."

Hearing

On April 26, Marissa Laguardia, MTRCB chair, issued a "notice of hearing" addressed to Ma. Socorro Vidanes, network senior vice president for Television Production.

Laguardia's memo stated that Reeves "utterance ['eat yours'] is not fit for television viewing... a prima facie violation of Presidential Decree No. 1986 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations."

The memo required the respondents (Reeves and ABS-CBN representatives) to attend a meeting of MTRCB's Hearing and Adjudication Committee on May 3.

Reeves attended the hearing accompanied by representatives from ABS-CBN and Backroom Inc., her management company.

Instead of the expected suspension, Reeves just got a reprimand and was instructed to "exercise care in her language, actions and manner of dressing."

Apology

A "suspension" would have meant Reeves, who has no regular show at the moment, wouldn't be allowed to guest on TV.

Reeves recounted: "I told the MTRCB, '*Ano na ang kakainin ko?*' [What will I eat?] They laughed because we were back where we started: The topic of eating! I guess, they took pity on me."

"They heard our side," Abunda, Reeves' manager, said.

"Chair Laguardia told me that I should be more conscious [of the fact] that I'm now popular and that my behavior might be imitated by young viewers," Reeves owned up.

But Reeves wasn't entirely treated with kid gloves, Abunda said. She's required to make "a public apology."

This was indicated in ABS-CBN's official response, contained

ALMOST/A2-2

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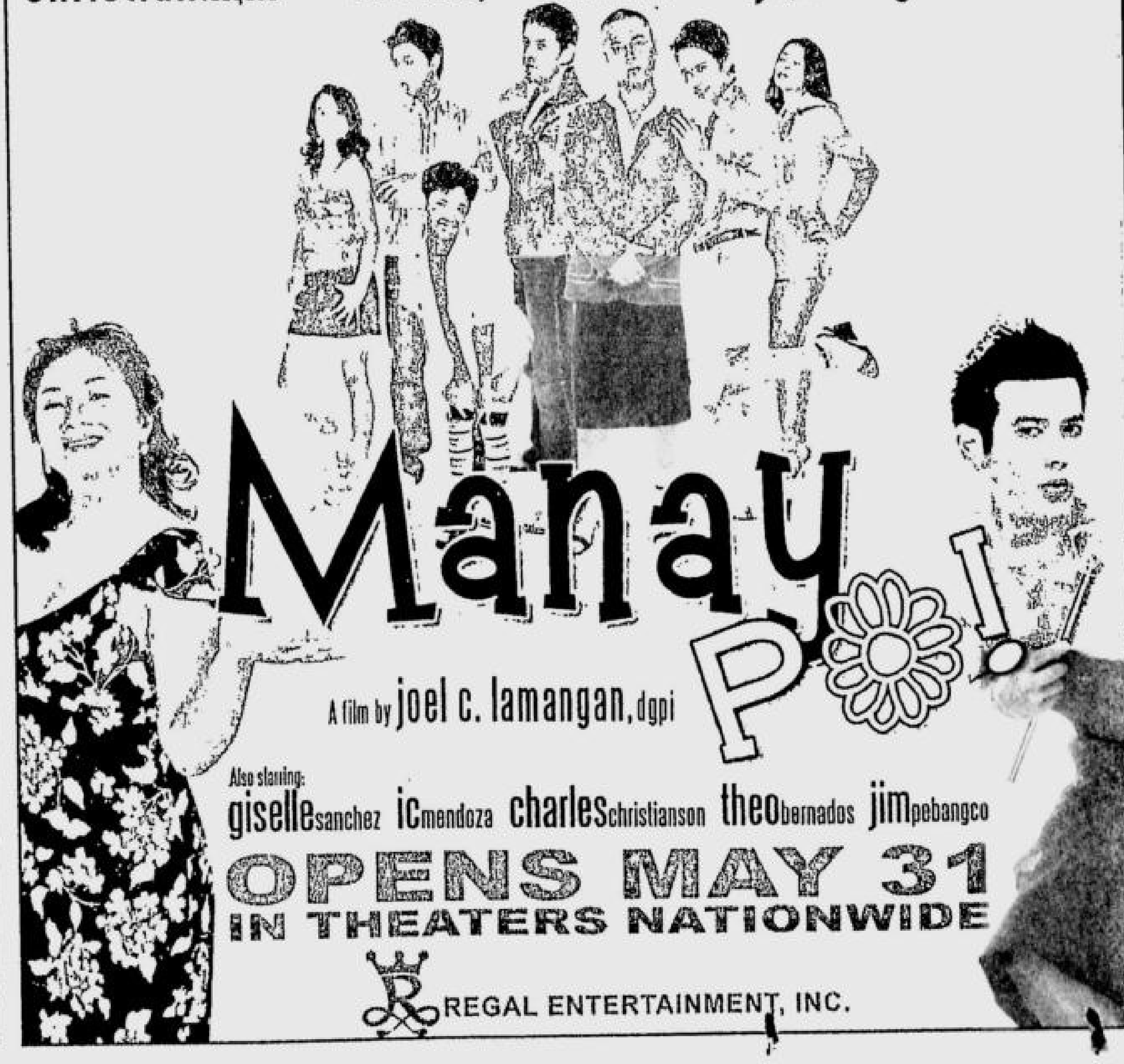

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SILENT HILL
M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

M:I:III
THE WILD
SILENT HILL
M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
AQUAMARINE
SENTINEL

SM CITY DASMARINAS

M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
SHE'S THE MAN
M:I:III

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
ICE AGE 2
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
M:I:III
THE WILD
D LUCKY ONES
EIGHT BELOW
RESERVED
RESERVED

SM CITY STA. MESA

M:I:III
AQUAMARINE
SILENT HILL
D LUCKY ONES
M:I:III
SENTINEL
EIGHT BELOW
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
THE WILD
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY BICUTAN

M:I:III
SENTINEL
THE WILD
SILENT HILL

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

M:I:III
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY MANILA

AQUAMARINE
EIGHT BELOW
SENTINEL
M:I:III
THE WILD
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
SUBMERGED
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
M:I:III

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

M:I:III
AQUAMARINE
M:I:III
M:I:III
SENTINEL
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
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THE WILD

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M:I:III
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M:I:III
SILENT HILL
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD
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PAMAHIIN
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M:I:III
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M:I:III
M:I:III
THE WILD
D LUCKY ONES
CHINESE TALL STORY
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY LUCENA

NANNY McPHEE
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY MOLINO

M:I:III
M:I:III
THE WILD
SUBMERGED

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

M:I:III
M:I:III
SENTINEL
NORTH COUNTRY
THE DARK
D LUCKY ONES
M:I:III
CHINESE TALL STORY

SM CITY ILOILO

D LUCKY ONES
RESERVED
M:I:III
THE WILD
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
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CHINESE TALL STORY

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M:I:III
GLORY ROAD
D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD
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M:I:III

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1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 • THX
1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
3 THE SENTINEL
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
4 PAMAHIIN
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
5 AQUAMARINE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
7 THE WILD
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
8 SLITHER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
9 PAMAHIIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:00
2 SLITHER
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 THE WILD 12:00 1:30 3:00
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 5:00 6:40 8:20 10:00
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5 THE SENTINEL
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6 AQUAMARINE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 SILENT HILL
11:00 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SLITHER
11:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
1:15 4:00 6:45
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4:00 6:45 9:15
4 SILENT HILL
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5 THE WILD
12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:00
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
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7 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15
8 THE SENTINEL
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 SILENT HILL
4 D' LUCKY ONES
5 THE SENTINEL
6 SLITHER

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2 PAMAHIIN
3 RESERVE
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In Mega
it's still '

GMA 7 protests claim tha
is top in Metro. Actually,

By Nini Valera
and Bayani San Diego Jr.

GMA 7'S PRIMETIME NEWS PROgram "24 Oras" is No. 1 in Mega Manila, according to surveys conducted by AGB-Nielsen from April 1 to 28, 2006.

The Kapuso network's "24 Oras" posted an average 25.6 percent against ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol," average of 20.48 percent in the same period.

This data was supplied by GMA 7 in reaction to statements made by top executives of ABS-CBN's news and current affairs division in an INQUIRER story (May 3) that the latter's "TV Patrol" had been "posting good ratings over '24 Oras' in Metro Manila."

Contradiction?

There is little contradiction here, actually.

Luchi Cruz-Valdes, head of ABS-CBN'S Current Affairs, claimed in the previous story that "TV Patrol" had topped the ratings in Metro Manila three out of five days last month.

The network had cited, as proof of the trend, AGB-Nielsen surveys conducted in Metro Manila from April 19 to 21 that showed "TV Patrol" bested "24 Oras" (over the three inclusive days—21.1 vs 19.9 percent; 24.3 vs 21.8; and 21.6 vs 21.5).

Valdes said: "If you get the average (number of 'winning' days in the whole month), we're no. 1 in Metro."

GMA 7 executives protested this, saying Metro Manila ratings was only part of the whole picture.

In a statement sent to INQUIRER Wednesday, GMA Marketing and Productions Inc. president Manuel Quiogue said Mega Manila—and not Metro Manila—ratings data were the accepted figures in terms of research evaluations and client presentations.

Quiogue was apparently referring to how advertising agencies determine the shows in which to place commercial spots.

"Very few clients look at the Metro Manila ratings because Mega Manila represents one major market, and not a collection of many markets," Quiogue said in the statement. "Thus, breaking down the ratings into Metro Manila and Suburbs is not generally done."

Butch Raquel, head of GMA 7's Corporate Communications, e-mailed to INQUIRER the AGB-Nielsen ratings results, showing that the "weighted" average (measuring actual percentage lead, as opposed to average based on number of days) showed "24 Oras" was leading in Mega Manila and Suburbs by a wide margin.

Raquel pointed out: "In Mega Manila, 25.6 vs 20.5; Suburbs, 29.8 vs 16.8."

In Metro Manila, the April results reflected a close race: "24 Oras," 23.5 vs

BITUIN Escalante

Almost suspen

in a memo drafted by Luis Andrada, business unit head for "The Buzz."

Dated May 4 and addressed to the MTRCB, Andrada's letter stated: "In her guest appearances [in the next two weeks], Ms Reeves shall make public that her attention was called by the MTRCB and, as a result, she will be more cautious in how she conducts herself in public and in her work as a media personality."

"I know that I won't turn into a saint overnight, but I really want to be a good person," said Reeves, who had just undergone a medical procedure to pump up her behind.

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Manila, 24 Oras'

t ABS-CBN's 'TV Patrol' they're both correct

"TV Patrol World," 22.4.

In an e-mailed statement, Raquel explained further: "Metro Manila ratings... shows that 'TV Patrol' won over '24 Oras' only five times over a period of four weeks of April and three of these wins were less than one rating point."

In an earlier interview, Maria Ressa, senior vice president and head of News and Current Affairs made clear her position: "It's a long way to go in Mega Manila."

But she considered Metro Manila figures "significant," she said, because Metro comprised 70 percent of Mega Manila ratings (the remaining 30 percent is the Suburbs).

The numbers fluctuate every day, but it's healthy competition, as far as Ressa is concerned.

"It's [non-productive] to get into fighting matches," she said. "What's more important is to focus on better programming. Ratings [can be] deceptive. A prime time news shows' performance is affected by pre-programming and post-programming (shows that come before and after), which change often."

What is constant, Ressa pointed out, is the viewers' trust.

"According to Pulse Asia's latest survey, ABS-CBN now has the highest credibility rating (68 percent as opposed to GMA's 60)," she said. "[For me] it's a sign we're on the right path. That's what I tell our reporters."

This aspect is also disputed by GMA.

Raquel's statement concluded: "[The AGB-Nielsen] Ratings also show that GMA News is the preferred news source during significant events such as the May 1 Labor Day coverage, Marine Headquarters Stand-off last Feb. 26, the Feb. 24 State of National Emergency Declaration, the landslide in Southern Leyte, and the events related to the 'Hello Garci' controversy last year."

Commercials

And reiterating Quiogue's point, Raquel stressed, "Advertisers look at Mega Manila ratings in determining [commercial placements]."

Rey Mendoza, an advertising executive, confirmed this. He said advertisers usually booked ads in top-rating shows even if creative media buys also looked at programs with niche markets.

"The image of the show is also important," Mendoza said, "not only the numbers."

Echoing Ressa, Mendoza added that the Metro was a "very important" market," since it represented 70 percent of Mega Manila.

"In fact," he said, "some clients only look at Metro Manila as the market for their products, [although] this does not mean that clients should ignore the total market."

Bituin, at last

SHOW TIME

BITUIN ESCALANTE STARS in her first-ever solo concert, "In Bituin...," at Onstage Greenbelt 1 in Makati City on May 12 and 13. Her special guest is Mon David, grand prize winner in the recently concluded London International Jazz Competition.

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Concert beneficiary is the Sagip Buhay Medical Foundations Inc.

Tonight

Poseidon Gala Premiere at Shangri-La Cineplex

ded

From page A2-1

RPN 9, too

Meanwhile, RPN 9 was also invited to an MTRCB hearing last May 3 because of "Scare Tactics"—a hidden-camera show imported from the United States that "showed double-breast exposure, a prima facie violation of PD No. 1986."

The nude scene was aired on April 11 at 7 p.m.

As a result of the hearing, Teresita M. Mora, Program Operations manager of RPN 9, wrote a letter to the MTRCB last May 3, wherein she "acknowledged the mistake" and volunteered to "commit ourselves to a suspension (May 8-15).

Ai-Ai asks BF to sign pre-nup

By Nini Valera

AI-AI DE LAS ALAS HAS ASKED HER fiancé Wilfredo "Jun" Hinahon to sign a pre-nuptial agreement even if she has postponed their wedding twice this year.

Last month, Ai-Ai and Jun were reported to have posted their wedding banns at the comedian's parish church in Fairview, Quezon City.

Speaking to INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday during a break in the shoot of her latest movie—Imus Productions' "Kapag Tumibok Ang Puso... Not Once, But Twice"—Ai-Ai, 41, revealed that she postponed her wedding to the 22-year-old badminton trainer upon the advice of her manager Boy Abunda.

"Boy said I should think things through before I decide anything that would change my life again," said Ai-Ai. "He also advised me to have a big wedding. I would have kept it quiet."

Ai-Ai was married to singer Miguel Vera by whom she has three children—Sancho, 15; Nicolo, 12; and Sofia, 10.

"My children are happy for me, especially Sancho," Ai-Ai claimed.

Ai-Ai has been linked to an American businessman and to another young man in the past. But she contends that Jun is her perfect match despite their age gap.

Young boys

"I can't help it if young boys fall for me," she jested. Turning serious, Ai-Ai said the secret to their happy relationship is patience and understanding.

"A lot of patience," she stressed. "He's young, so I have to explain a lot of things to him. He's also a private person. He doesn't even like his photos taken when he's with me."

Last month, stolen shots of Ai-Ai and Jun while on vacation in Boracay were published in a show biz magazine. She said this had upset them.

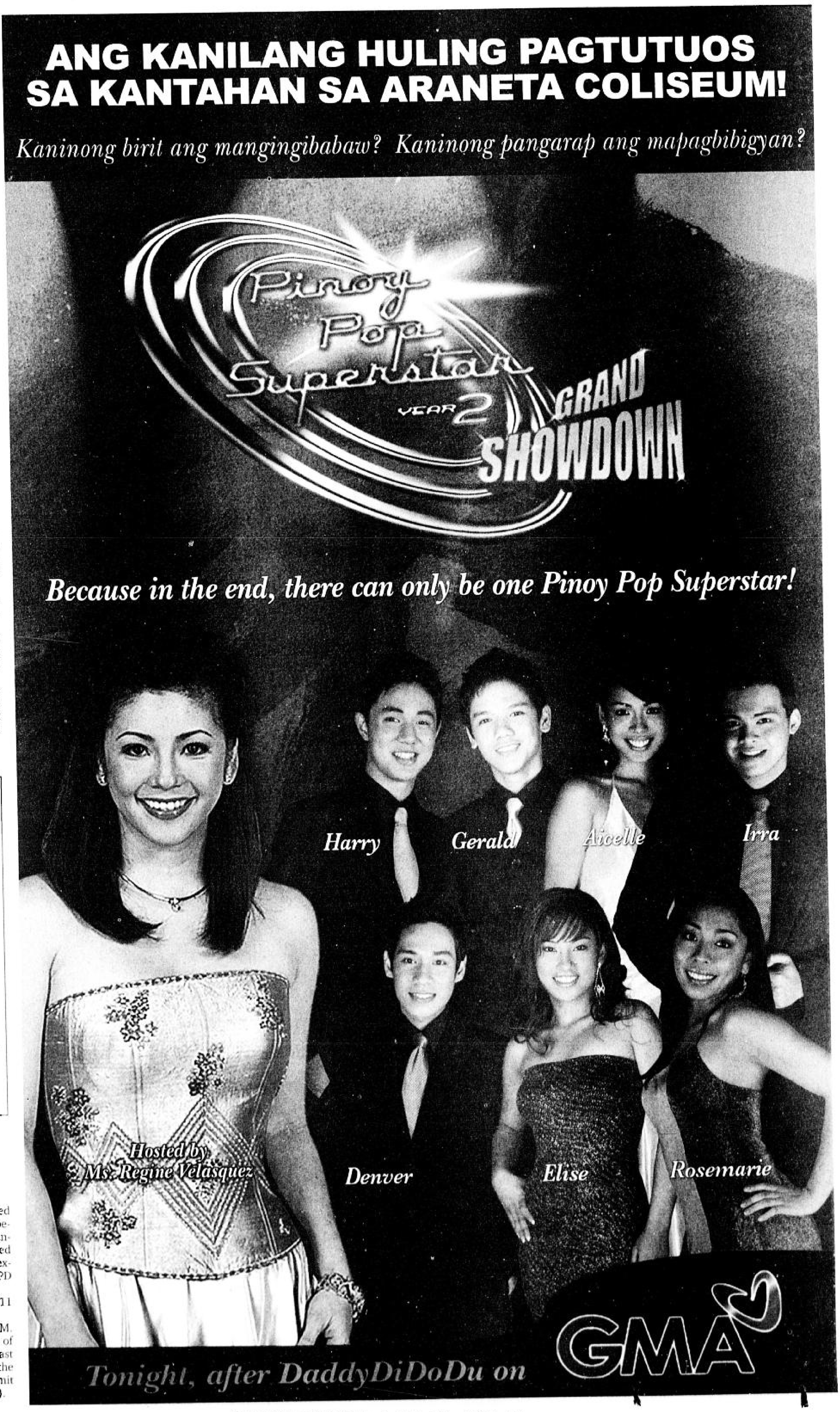
"I didn't like the picture because I was not pretty in it," she joked. "Jun couldn't imagine how the photograph was taken. I had to explain to him about the paparazzi."

Ai-Ai and Jun met on the badminton court about three years ago but she said they started dating only six months ago.

"We were friends first," she said. "His mother is also a good friend of mine. His family knows me already. No one has objected that we're seeing each other."

In a phone interview with INQUIRER, Abunda described Jun as a very nice and decent guy. "I like him," he said.

The wedding will most likely take place next year, said Ai-Ai.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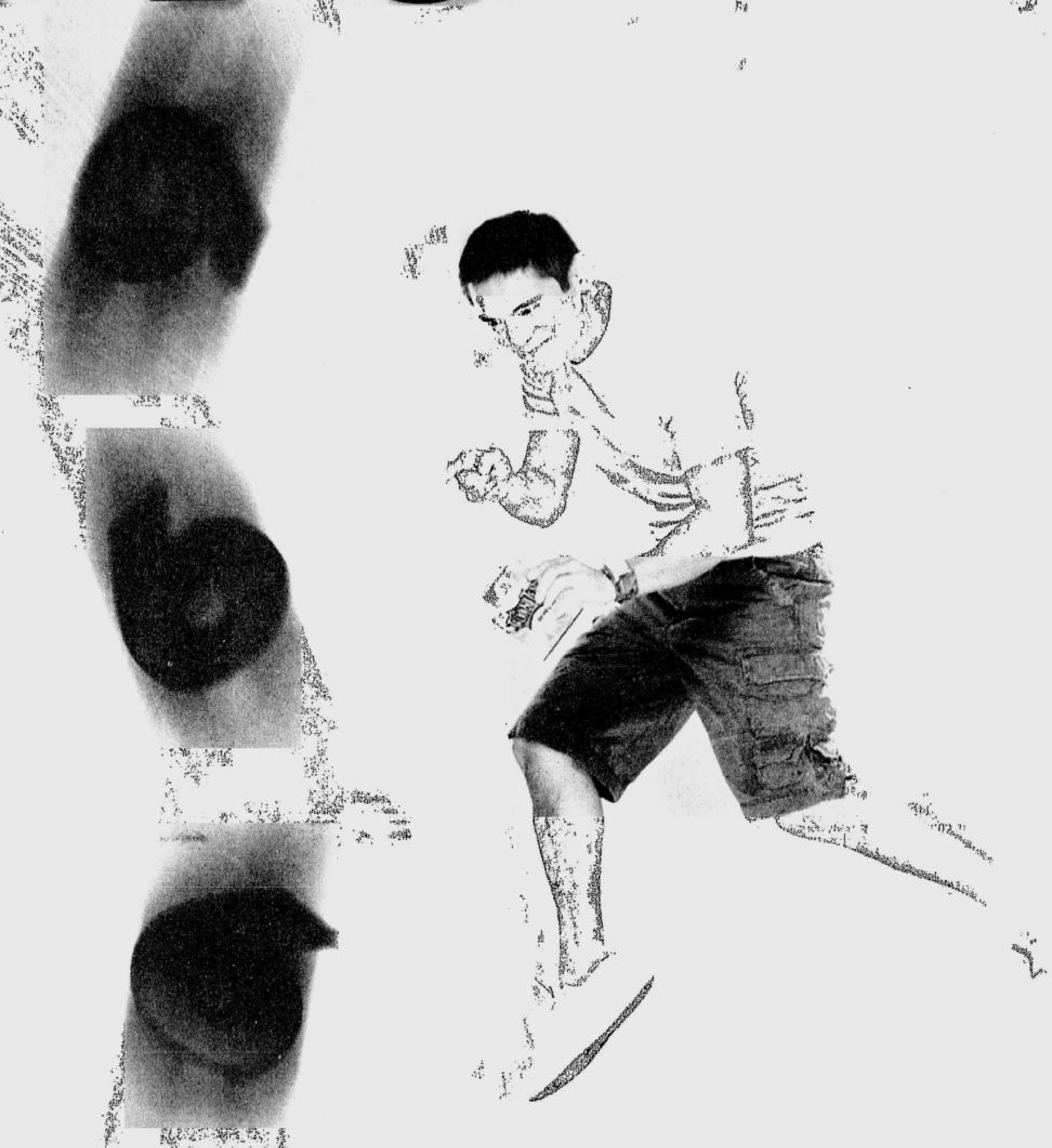

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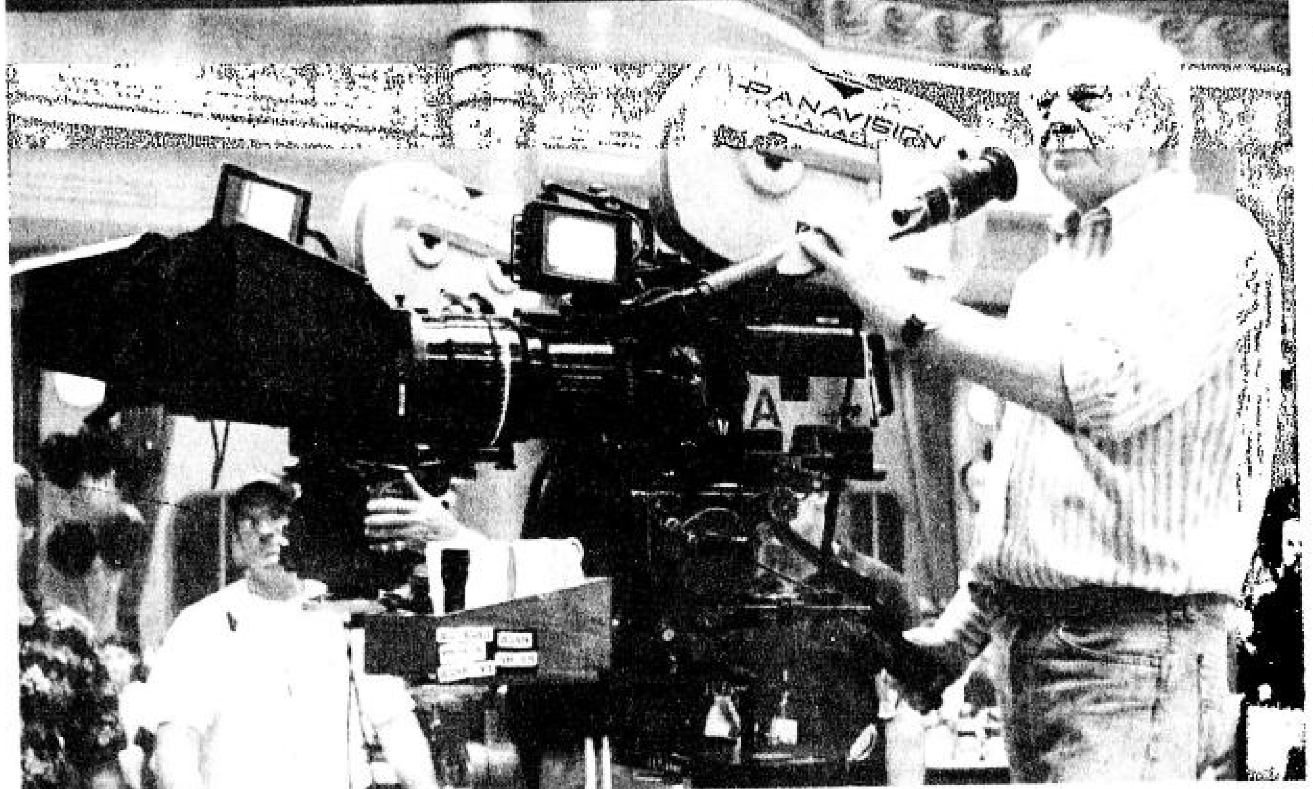
A 'civilized' filmmaker



WOLFGANG PETERSEN — described by his stars as a "civilized" filmmaker because "he goes home for dinner" — directed crucial parts of 'Poseidon' in a football-field size water tank. See "Only IN Hollywood," page A3/3.

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How Christian Bautista thrills girlfriend Rachelle Ann Go

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I CORNERED RACHELLE ANN GO FOR *KILIG kwento* about her boyfriend **Christian Bautista.** She rambled as any lovestruck girl would: "He gave me a CD of our pics. It's a slide show with a message in every shot. He also gave me a compilation of songs and a long letter explaining why each song reminds him of me. We had a memorable time in Vegas after our concert tour but, nope, we didn't have a Vegas wedding *ha*? Our theme song is "You" by **Basil Valdez.**" So Rachelle Ann & Christian don't just sing about love *après tout*, huh? *Amour*… they duet and do it!

Buboy's condition

AFTER seven years, **Sunshine Cruz** is doing a movie again. Even after having three kids, Shine can give younger stars a run for their money. Of course the new project has the go-signal of her hubby, **Buboy (Cesar Montano).** She gushed "I'm so excited 'cause it will be with Ate **Maricel Soriano.** It's entitled 'Inang Yaya.' Ate Maria plays the *yaya* of my kid. Buboy's conditions are, pack up before midnight, no shooting on Sundays and no kissing scenes!" Even sans sexy scenes, Mrs. Cesar Montano is sure to shine, shine, shine onscreen!

ETK

FOR the third Saturday in a row, I was guest co-host in "E.T.K" (ABS-CBN 2, 4:30 p.m. yesterday) Thanks to **Ogie Diaz, Toni Gonzaga, Direk Danny Caparas, Minnie Malapira, MJ Felipe, Bamba Bayota, Joel Mercado, Reynold Giba** and the rest of the staff for making me feel instantly at home. Hope you all enjoyed the juicy stories that "Entertainment Konek" delivered *korek*!

GMA's 'shopping' team

GMA Network is without a doubt the leader in bringing the best-loved foreign series to Philippine television. Much of the credit goes to three key persons involved in program acquisitions, experts at expertise in choosing the best foreign materials that the Filipino audience will surely enjoy. They are **Annette Gozon-Abrogar,** President of GMA Worldwide Inc. and **Roxanne Barcelona,** her VP; plus **Joey Abacan,** VP for Program Management. The trio introduced Korean drama to Philippine TV. The Top 5 Korean dramas on Philippine TV, in terms of rating, were aired on GMA 7.

The Programs Acquisitions Team are always on the lookout for the next big thing. GMA will soon introduce the first drama from mainland China to be aired on prime time, "Love of the Condor Heroes." RP will be one of the first countries to show this drama on free TV. GMA 7 also hopes to start a J (Japanese)-drama craze via "Gokusen" (daily before 24 Oras). It is based on a *manga* that became so popular, it was turned into live action and an animated series.

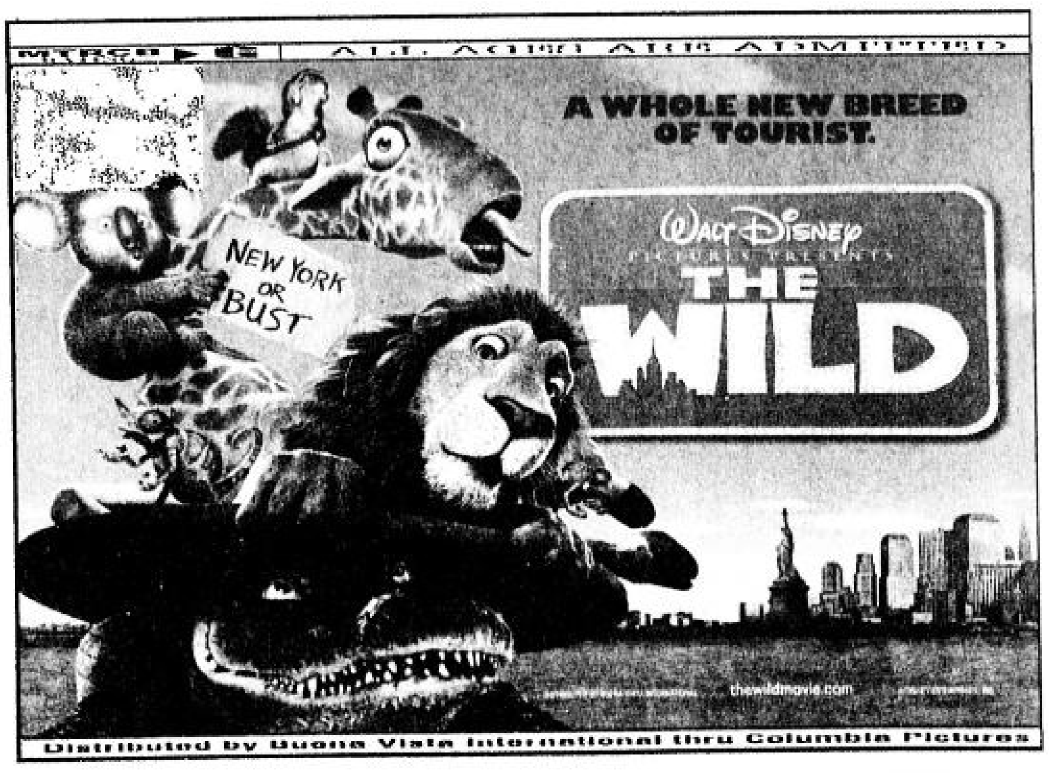
Back in business

IN BINONDO, 168 Shopping Mall—located on Soler and Sta. Elena Streets—resumed operations on April 26. Celebrities who frequent the mall are **Imelda** and **Imee Marcos, Kim Atienza, Jolina Magdangal, Regine Tolentino** and members of the media. On April 6, during ceremonies held at the Dusit Hotel, 168 was awarded the "Number 1 Wholesale Shopping Mall" by the Sales and Marketing Professionals Association of the Philippines, National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards, the Shoppers' Choice Magazine and the Asia Pacific Market Research Council.

Star text

FROM Direk **Brillante Mendoza:** "I just got back from Turin, Italy, and I'm glad to say I won the audience award for 'Masahista.' I will proceed [to] Jeonju, Korea, tomorrow for another competition."

E-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com



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6 GOLD (SDDS) SILENT HILL
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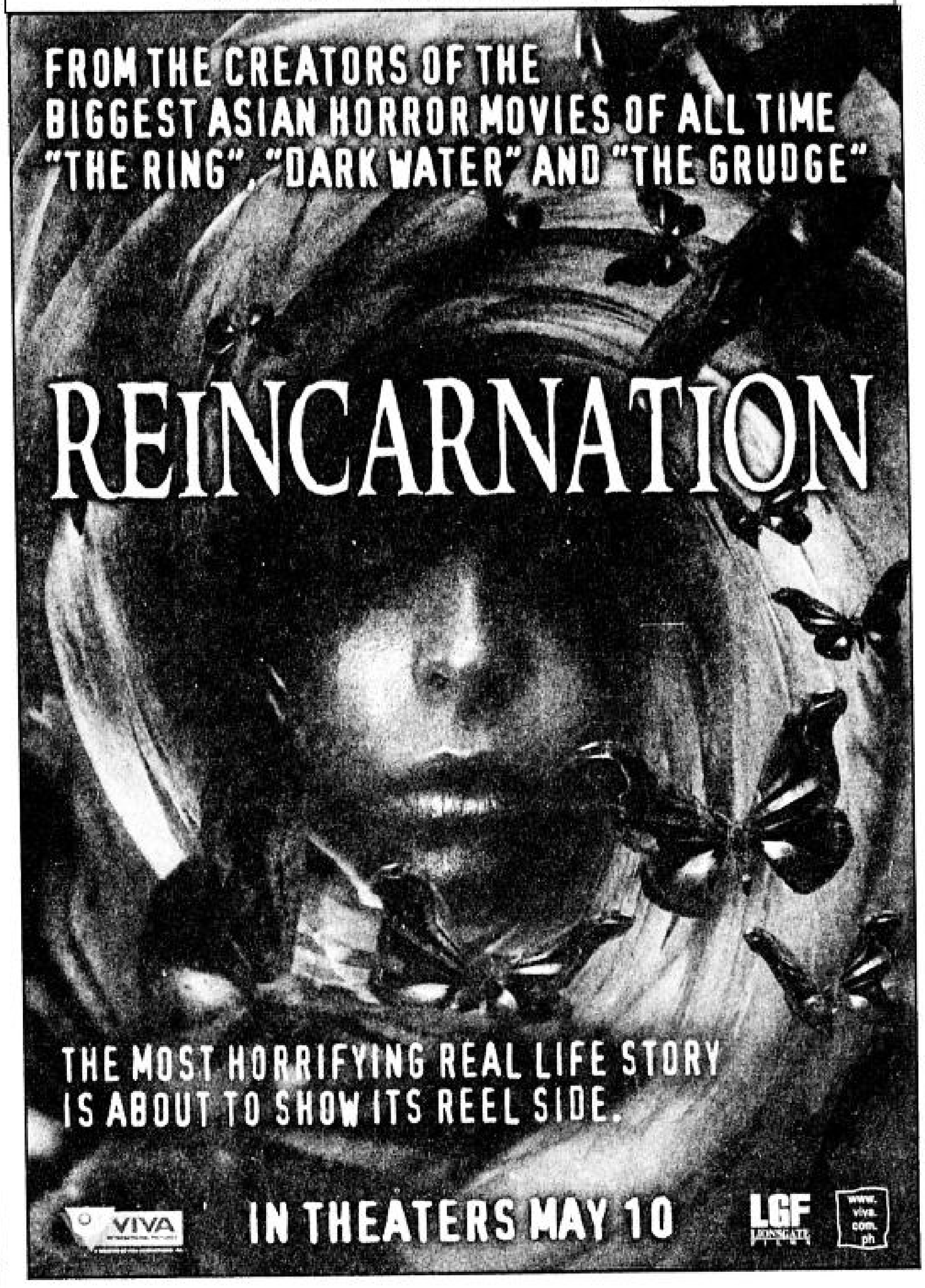
MTRCB RATING - PG13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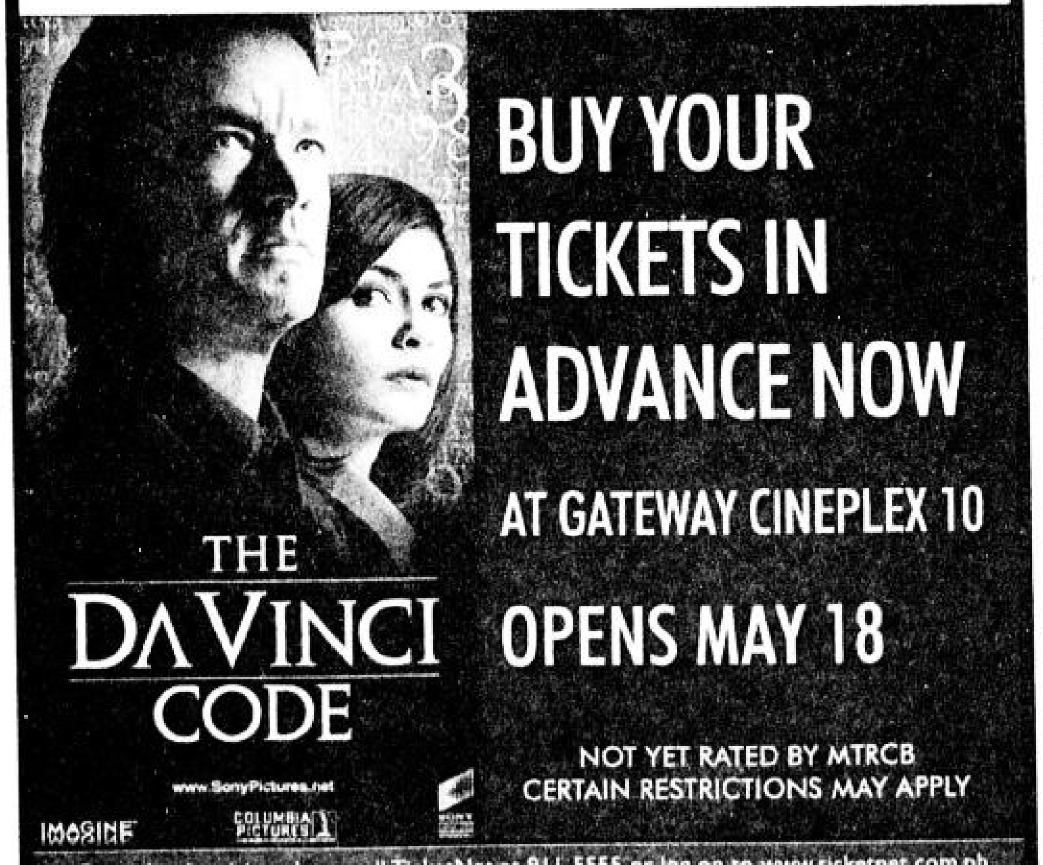

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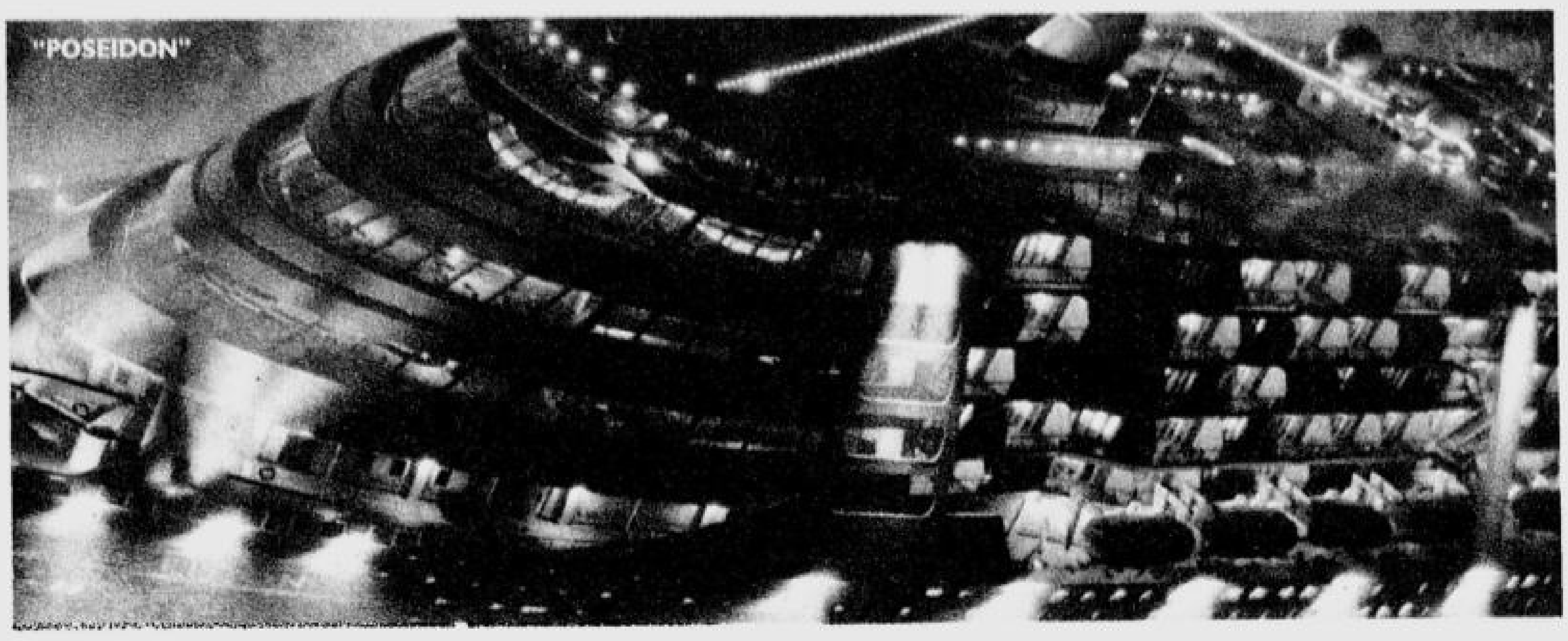

Dreyfuss trumps co-stars Lucas and Rossum

Veteran star had the best stories to tell at press cons for this latest 'Poseidon' remake

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—THERE IS NO BETTER WAY to put you in the mood for watching a movie about a ship that turns upside down after a huge wave hits it... than a dinner cruise aboard a yacht.

Warner Bros. did just that. They hosted a sunset cruise in Marina del Rey before we watched "Poseidon," a remake of that popcorn movie "The Poseidon Adventure," a huge hit in 1972. (To exaggerate how long it has been since he watched a movie inside a theater, my San Francisco-based brother **Alex** loves to joke that the last film he saw was "The Poseidon Adventure.")

The day after the cruise, we sat down to interview eight, yes eight, people from the movie—director **Wolfgang Petersen, Kurt Russell, Richard Dreyfuss, Josh Lucas, Emmy Rossum, Jacinda Barrett, Mia Maestro** and **Mike Vogel**. That meant spending virtually a whole day at the Regent Beverly Wilshire. It was enough to make you jump the ship, so to speak, if you are not so inclined to hear the stars drone about their mishaps or near-mishaps while shooting in a football field-sized water tank.

Fortunately, each of the eight talents offered some memorable moments. But Richard trumped them all without meaning to with his wit and irreverent humor.

Emmy, who seems to look lovelier each time we see her (she was a painterly vision in a **Ralph Lauren** dress, flowing curly locks and all), announced with great fanfare at the start of our press con with her: "I want you to know that I'm a woman of my word. The last time I sat down with you for 'Phantom of the Opera,' I promised I would bring you crème brûlée, which I am famous for. I have brought it for you today and it's coming in right from the back. I orchestrated the whole thing."

With those words, a couple of the hotel's staff rolled in a cart, covered in white linen, carrying the creamy dessert.

Playing hooky

Asked about her studies at Columbia University, the normally poised Emmy stuck out a tongue like a child caught playing, well, hooky: "I'm playing hooky right now. I haven't attended a class in about six months. I'm working on my record right now but I'm hoping to go back to school at some point. I want to major in English with a minor either in art history or philosophy."

Other interesting quotes from the 19-year-old actress:

"When I first met Wolfgang, he didn't even ask if I could swim (laughter) and then after he cast me, he was like, 'Off to your scuba diving training!' and I was like, 'What part of this equation did I miss?' The training was pretty strenuous, especially given the fact that I had never scuba dived before. On the first day, they introduced me to this apparatus that they called the cage of death. I went, 'Can't we call it the cage of life? Let's be a little bit more optimistic.' It was this very large plexiglass box that they would place over my head very slowly while we were underwater.

"I would take my last breath before my head was completely encased in the box. A group of safety divers would surround me. I would have to hold my breath as long as I could and then give them the sign when I was running out of air and then swim to the top. It was pretty scary. But nothing could have prepared me for the running, jumping, falling, screaming, bleeding and bruising that turned out to be part of the film."

"The other day, I had a guy in the mall come up to me and tell me he loved 'Phantom of the Opera' and then he proposed to me (laughter). I told him I didn't feel like I knew him well enough to say yes (laughter)."

"I've found that guys have been somewhat shy to ask me out. I used to be really shy to ask guys out. Now I'm starting to get less shy (laughter) because I realized that I have to do it sometimes—step up to the plate and be brave. The guys that I tend to date are students, or they are in the first two years of their careers. I don't think they're really intimidated because when people get to know me, they realize that I'm pretty normal. I mean, the things that I like to do are pretty normal, like going to the movies and concerts. I'm going to see **Madonna**'s concert in a few weeks. I went to the Black Eyed Peas show because **Fergie** was in the movie. I went to see David Gray a few weeks ago."

"I spend about half of the year in New York because I travel a lot. I'm making my album here so I'm back and forth between LA and New York. I still live with my mom in the same apartment that I grew up in. We don't have a housekeeper. I do my own laundry. I make my own bed. I don't really get special treatment. I grew up with a single mom. She's my inspiration. As a photographer, she has been all over the world, hanging out of helicopters in Bahrain photographing oil rigs. She has led an unconventional, adventurous life. I get some of my artistic inclinations and energy from her."

EMMY Rossum

JOSH Lucas

H'wood's handsomest

Josh Lucas, whom we will grudgingly describe (my wife Janet said after the screening that even when Josh is drowning, he still looks "hot") as the handsomest Hollywood actor today, narrated how he almost drowned: "It was a moment of genuine panic in my life. I was actually thinking, I'm going to die making a movie (laughing). It was a very uncomfortable feeling. What happened was, the second they yelled action, I was supposed to go under, swim toward Jacinda. As I went under there was a body (a prop) being held by a wire. The wire caught on my belt and pulled me under because there was suction coming from these water cannons that were creating this water movement.

"As I got pulled down, I didn't think much of it for a second. But then I realized suddenly that I was stuck and I couldn't get up. No one could see me. The cameras couldn't see me because there was too much going on in the water. I went into full panic. I was trying to rip my clothing to get out of this thing but the more I twirled, the more I got caught up in this wire. Finally, I got out of it and swam out.

"I got very, very angry. On the couple of times in my life that I've panicked, what happened was this rage comes out. It's the survival instinct, I suppose. I am not someone who loses his temper very often but I got very angry at Wolfgang. The amazing thing about him is that he managed not only to instantly calm me down but instantly get me back to do it again (laughter) so there must be some brilliant manipulative mind there that I don't quite understand."

More from Josh:

"One of the hardest times in my life was when I was really broke. Five years ago, the day before I got a role in 'A Beautiful Mind,' I was with my girlfriend. We went to the bank and I couldn't get money out because I only had $19. You had to keep a minimum balance of $20. So we went back to the house and we took all of our quarters. There was a moment when the two of us looked at each other and I thought, God, I've been working in this business for more than 10 years and I only have $19 in the bank. I just felt sick and I remember just looking at her and thinking, 'I can't even take her out to dinner... we can't even buy a beer tonight. It was really a bad feeling. It was really interesting that the next day I got offered 'A Beautiful Mind.'"

Most enjoyable interview

Leave it to the most senior in the cast, Richard, to give the most enjoyable interview. Silver-haired now, with a balding pate, Richard—who married wife no. 3 just last March (**Svetlana Erokhin**, a Russian)—gave answers that matched the youthful, mischievous glint in his eyes. He even stood up to do his version of a German dance while talking about Wolfgang. Below are excerpts of our interview with the 1977 Oscar Best Actor for "The Goodbye Girl."

You look good—complexion and everything—for your age.

It's also due to the self-tanning stuff (laughter).

Many actors are going for cosmetic surgery. Would you?

I'll tell you the truth. If I'm 95 years old, on life support at Cedars-Sinai (Hospital) and someone tells me that they've perfected the hair (graft) thing so that it doesn't look fake, I'll do it (laughter). I believe in anything science has to offer that makes you feel good. It's one thing to walk around and look like you're from Pluto (he stretched and contorted his face) but I believe in anything that science has to offer. Why not? A hundred years from now we're all going to walk around with perfect abs and long penises (laughter).

There was no big deal made about your character being gay. It's just casually referred to. Can you talk about the significance of this?

The decision for the character to be gay preceded my involvement. I thought it was very interesting thing. It's not revolutionary. It doesn't change the world but it's a good thing. Make him gay—solitary, middle-aged gay, heartbroken. As an actor, I thought that was great. It's less controversial perhaps than it might be and too bad because that would bring a bigger audience (laughter).

Kurt Russell's character could have told your character, "I wish I knew how to quit you" (the memorable line from "Brokeback Mountain").

Why I didn't fall in love with Kurt is the question (laughter). I was so busy looking at that little Italian bus boy that I should have (laughter) had a long-term relationship with the Mayor (Kurt's character). I got a letter from this gay actor organization congratulating and thanking me for playing this role. They sent me a gift which was a triple X-rated gay porn with a box (laughter). I took it out and—whoa, whoa, whoa (laughter)! It was Part 2. It did open my horizons a little bit but I thought that was funny.

The back stories explaining your character and those of the other cast members were cut.

I was in favor of making this a silent film (laughter). What I mean is, there is not a line of dialogue in this movie that you have to hear. This

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GINA Pareño: "Brilliant actress."

'Kubrador' goes to Moscow

By Marinel R. Cruz

JEFFREY JETURIAN'S NEW FULL-LENGTH digital feature, "Kubrador (The Bet Collector)," has been invited to compete with the world's best in the 28th Moscow International Film Festival, which opens June 23.

The Moscow IFF was registered by the International Federation of Film Producers Association (FIAPF) in 1972 as an "A-class festival."

"Kubrador," which chronicles three days in the life of a bet collector, is the first Pinoy film to compete at the Moscow IFF since Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig (Small Voices)" in 2003.

The invitation was sent by festival program coordinator Evgenia Polyakova to Joji Alonso of MLR Films, producer of "Kubrador."

Polyakova said Jeturian and "Kubrador" lead actress Gina Pareño is entitled to a five-day all-expenses-paid trip to Moscow as the film's representatives.

Philip Cheah, festival director of the Singapore International Film Fest, compared Jeturian's work to the 1973 film "Don't Look Now" by Nicolas Roeg.

Cheah described the movie as "Jeff's best work since 'Pila Balde' and 'Tuhog.'" He described Pareño as a "brilliant actress."

Pareño is supported by theater actors Nanding Josef (Father Buboy), Fonz Besa (Eli), Soliman Cruz, (policeman) and ABS-CBN director Johnny Manahan (jueteng cashier). Behind the camera is a team comprised by Joel Jover (screenplay), Armando "Bing" Lao (script supervisor), Boy Yñiguez (director of photography) and Leo Abaya (production designer).

The first Moscow IFF was held in 1935. Before it was celebrated annually in 1995, it took place biannually.

PARIS Bennett

Thank you, Miss Paris

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

WHETHER THE JUDGES GAVE her performances good comments or bad, "American Idol" finalist Paris Bennett never forgot to say "Thank you."

The girl with the Minnie Mouse speaking voice—yes, only when she speaks—said it was her way of thanking Randy Jackson, Paul Abdul and Simon Cowell for being her virtual coaches.

"Being 17," she explained, "I learned a lot from them."

Paris bowed out of the show after getting the lowest number of votes on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila). Barely escaping elimination was 27-year-old Elliott Yamin. He battles it out with Chris Daughtry, Taylor Hicks and Katharine McPhee next week, when they take on the songs of Elvis Presley.

In an exclusive interview (arranged by Star World), Paris said that she was happy with being in the top five. What matters to her, she said, was that she made it this far.

On Tuesday, Paris sang Prince's "Kiss" (theme: songs from each finalist's birth year) and Mary J. Blige's "Be Without You" (songs from any current Billboard charts). Both performances got mixed reviews from the judges.

Cowell described her take on "Kiss" as "screechy" and "annoying." Her second song earned his approval. Judge Jackson found her Blige number too pitchy. Characteristically, Paris had the same reply to each criticism: "Thank you."

Now that "Idol" is down to four contenders, it should be easier to answer this question. Who do you think will win?

You probably hear this all the time—I've no idea. America has been so tricky this year.

You changed your look from week to week. What impact do you think it had on the voters?

I think what happened was, everyone wanted to place me in this teenage light and not allow me to grow up. Whatever it was, I'm very happy because now I can... just venture into what this has built for me.

Your singing voice is so different from your speaking voice. Did you ever wish this were not so?

I sure don't. I appreciate my voice in every aspect, so I definitely wouldn't change it.

Do you have plans for a recording?

I am definitely working on an album. And I'd like to do a lot of voice-overs. And I want to do acting. I just want to keep entertaining.

Do you have a specific album deal?

No. I'm waiting for everyone just to throw it at me, and I'd like to pick wisely.

Do you think your age worked against you? Do you wish you had waited, maybe a couple years?

No, not at all. I don't regret anything that has happened so far. I thank God that I was in this competition at this age. I don't think age had anything to do with it ... it wasn't something that people really thought about. It was about talent.

You're so poised onstage for 17, for any age. Why are you so confident?

Prayer works. And I believe in myself. Every time I'm on that stage, I give myself full credit—I can do whatever is put in front of me. That's how I make it through. Nothing can really bring me down.

Simon was always saying everything you did was too old for you. How do you feel about that?

It doesn't bother me. I'm just a little girl with an old spirit. I love Gladys Knight. I love all the old, old, old people that just had the great music in them. Every time they said that... I was more and more motivated because that's who I am. I'm glad they finally figured that out.

What were you thinking when you put your gum in Ryan Seacrest's hand?

Well, I had just sang the group song. When we sat down, I put a gum in my mouth because I always have a piece of gum at the roof of my mouth. But since I had just chewed it, it wasn't ready to lay at the top of my mouth. When Ryan said, "Paris, you're going to sing," I said, okay, whatever. He held out his hand and I said, "Ryan, you want to hold this for me?" I just gave it to him, and I was ready to sing. That's just to show America that I'm ready for anything at any given moment. I'll never be caught off guard.

("American Idol" airs on Star World Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. direct satellite, 8 p.m. primetime and 11:30 p.m. replay.)

Tagalized 'Kill Bill'

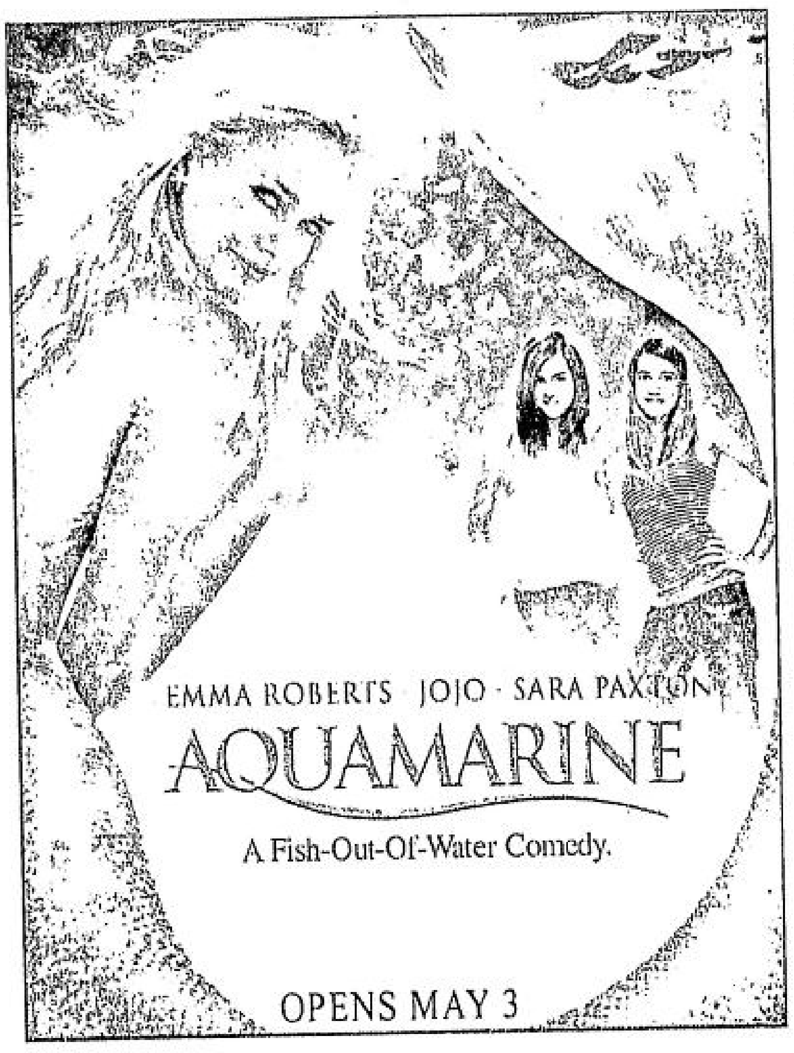
DID YOU KNOW...

"PATAYIN SI BILL?"

Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill Vol. 1," as dubbed in Tagalog, makes its cable premiere on Cinema One at 8 tonight.

Starring Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu, Vivica A. Fox, Daryl Hannah and David Carradine, the film was translated by Montreal Repuyan and Sigfreid Barros Sanchez.

Cinema One is available from SkyCable Platinum, SkyCable Gold, SkyCable Silver and other leading cable systems.



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Philippine show biz goes global

TV leads the way

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOST OF THE TIME, FILIPINO SHOW BIZ people "think local," gearing their productions to audiences here. This is a market-specific thrust that gives those shows focus and identity, but it also results in a sense of insularity and lack of ambition and sophistication.

But there have been occasional exceptions to this desultory rule—in the 1950s some Filipino movies were shot abroad, like "Pitong Gabi sa Paris," and decades later, superstar **Nora Aunor** filmed blockbusters like "Lollipops and Roses at Burong Talangka" and "Blue Hawaii" in the States.

These productions were popular with local viewers because they gave them something different and visually special. And, let's face it, they also tapped into Pinoy's "deathless" colonist mentality, which makes them think that "foreign" is inherently better than "local."

Fast-forward to 2006, and it's instructive to see that this occasional interest in foreign locales has become much more pervasive, and has expanded from a simple touristic thrust to a major business approach that can only grow stronger from year to year.

Now that the movies have been upstaged by television as the most influential and popular medium in the country, it's TV that's leading the way in making the industry's growing global thrust a key financial linchpin for our leading networks.

The important shift has been in regarding Filipinos living and working abroad as a major new market that's ripe for the picking—and servicing.

Being Pinoys, they're homesick and hungry for a connection with their homeland, and our TV networks have been only too happy to oblige with The Filipino Channel and other astute gambits.

In addition, even as the networks buy up a lot of Asian *telenovelas* for local showing, they're also starting to sell their own dramatic productions to other countries.

Most recently, **Marvin Agustin** and **Jolina Magdangal** went to the States to shoot their new *teleserye*, "I Love New York," and the series will start telecasting May 15 on GMA 7. If it clicks with viewers, it could usher in a new wave of local productions shot abroad.

Other gambits include the many pop-musical shows that local artists stage all over the world. And, in the field of theater, **Monique Wilson**'s New Voice Company is currently performing its productions of "Aspects of Love" in Singapore.

These individual moves aren't new, but what is significant is that they're working in tandem today, so their impact has become truly noteworthy.

Aside from the extra income that these outward-looking initiatives provide, they also suggest that the national mind-set is finally expanding beyond its traditionally insular confines, and that's a good thing. On the other hand, this could also exacerbate our colonial mentality, so we have to guard against that negative tendency and consequence. In general, however, we welcome Filipino entertainment workers' renewed global thrust, for the financial, cultural and psychological advantages it could engender.

Halo-Halo Festival

THE SENSODYNE Coal Gel "Halo-Halo Festival" is set 2 to 7 p.m. today at the Market! Market! Central Plaza at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. The "cool" event launches Sensodyne's new mint-flavored desensitizing toothpaste, and the Sensodyne Chill Gimmick Card, a loyalty card for iced dessert lovers.

New reggae and acoustic bands will perform, and **Brad Turvey, Bianca King, Alfred Vargas, Luke Jickain** and **Nancy Castiglione** will whip up their own halo-halo creations in the celebrity category. Other "design your own halo-halo" tilts are open to kids, parents, students and chefs.

'CNN Presents Sleep'

CNN delves into the mystifying yet important realm of sleep and dreams in "CNN Presents Sleep," a one-hour program that premiered yesterday and repeats at 3 a.m. and 2 p.m., and tomorrow at at 3 a.m.

The special reveals what sleep deprivation can do, and discusses its link to accidents. Dr. **Sanjay Gupta** also explores various sleep disorders including "Parasomnia," a condition where the mind is asleep but the body continues to move. Then, the meaning of dreams in past and present cultures is examined.

Inspirational Album

THE JESUIT Music Ministry of the Jesuit Communications Foundation recently launched "Lauds 7: Take My Hands," a new instrumental recording by Fr. **Arnel Aquino**, S.J. The album returns to the font of our childhood faith, revisiting the songs we sang when our lives were less complicated and fretful.

Feedback

FROM **Ed R. Corrales** of Makati City: "I watched the show 'Gospel of Judas,' but it did not detail what the old document contained, so it was difficult for me to evaluate its message. How can we get hold of the translation?"

We have received these excerpts from the National Geographic Channel: "The Gospel of Judas" text begins, "The secret account of the revelation that **Jesus** spoke in conversation with **Judas Iscariot** during a week, three days before he celebrated Passover." It reflects themes that scholars regard as being consistent with Gnostic traditions. In the first scene, Jesus laughs at his disciplines for praying to "your God" meaning the Old Testament God who created the world. He challenges them to look at him and understand what he really is, but they turn away.

"The key passage comes when Jesus tells Judas,"… you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man who clothes me."

'Judas is signed out for singled out for special status: 'Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysterious of the kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal.' Jesus says. He also tells Judas, 'Look, you have been told everything. Lift up your eyes and look at the cloud and the light within it, and the stars surrounding it. The star that leads the way is your star.

"The gospel also suggests Judas will be despised by the other disciples, but will be exalted over them: "… You will be cursed by the other generations - and you will come to rule over them…

"The gospel ends abruptly: They (the arresting party) approved Judas and said to him, 'What are you doing here? You are Jesus' disciple. Judas answered them as they wished. And, he received some money and handed him over to them. No mention is made of Jesus' crucifixion or resurrection.""

Marine painting exhibition

THE PAINTINGS of **Alfredo C. Carmelo**, first Filipino marine painter, is currently on view at the NCAA building in Intramuros.

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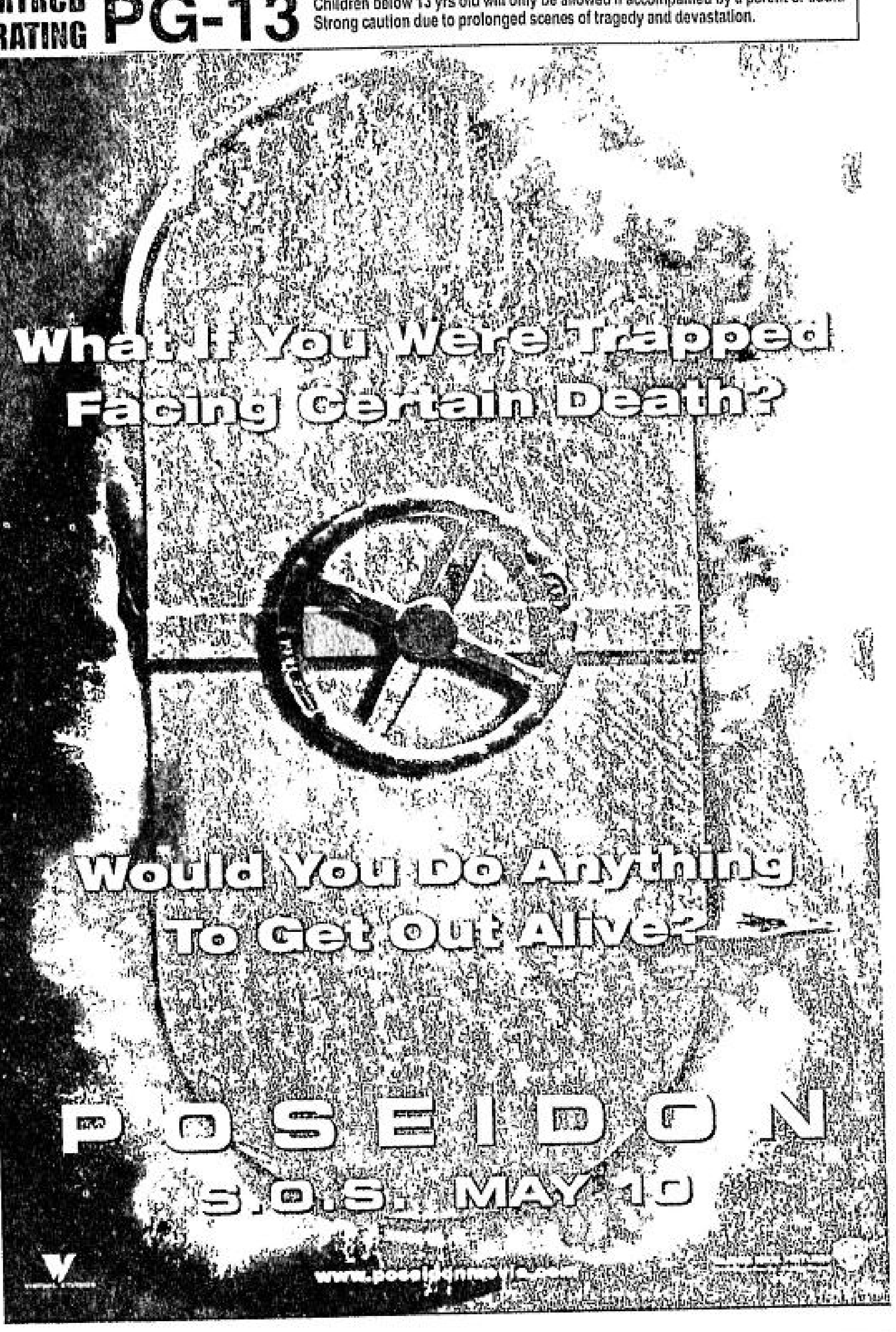

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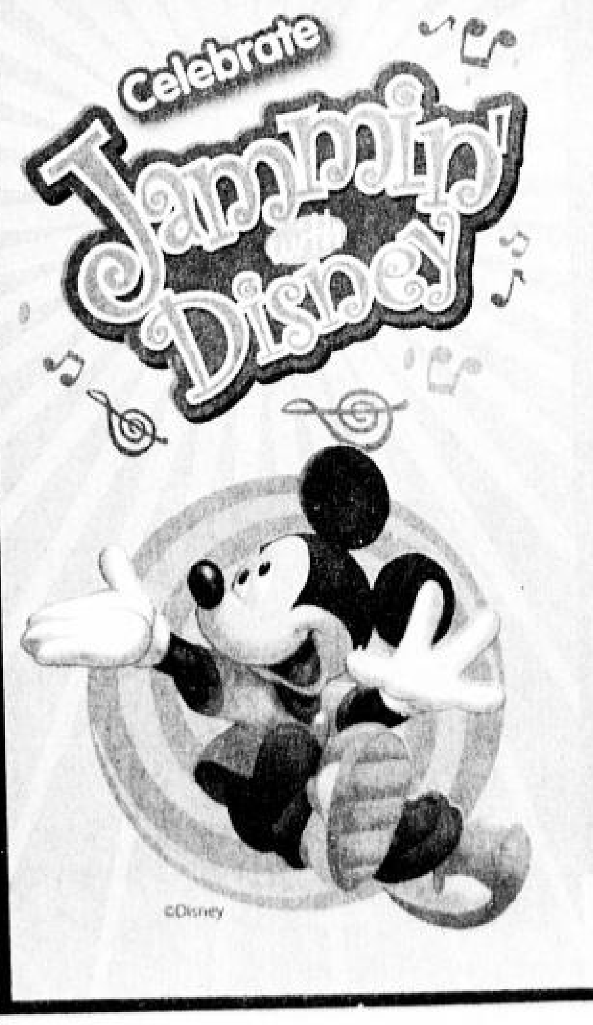

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WHENEVER he's free, BJ plays his guitar, drumset and keyboards

THESE video games are gifts from his 'Eat... Bulaga!' family.

IF he had his way, BJ would wear a *sando* anywhere, *"para po presko."*

'Tolits' likes it cool

Head wear, foot wear, formal wear—child superstar BJ Forbes goes for comfort.
And, make no mistake, he'd really rather talk about toys, video games and basketball

By Marinel R. Cruz
and Sheena Jade Barrion
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

OUT OF THE CLOSET

NOT MANY KNOW that child superstar Bernard Joecel "BJ" Forbes, only 8, owns a two-bedroom bungalow and an SUV.

Although BJ would rather talk to INQUIRER Entertainment about the latest video games, remote-control cars and his basketball idols, his mom, Analiza, insists that this bit of info be made public.

Analiza is bothered about tabloid stories that she and her husband Bernardo are squandering their son's earnings.

"Some write-ups say our house is not conducive to growing up for children like BJ," said Analiza during our visit to their home in Angono, Rizal. She wondered what the reports are based on. "None of them ever visited our home. I'm keeping all the receipts of purchases we've made with BJ's money."

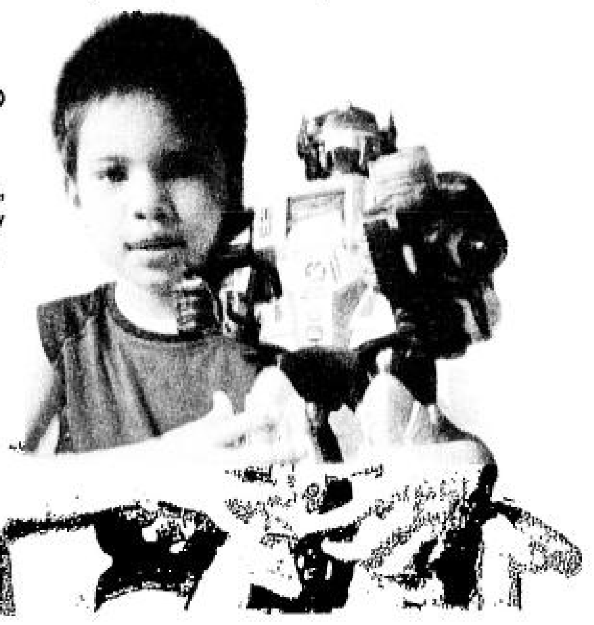
Analiza said the negative publicity on BJ was probably the result of her ignoring tabloid writers who try to extort money from her.

"*Hindi pa man artista si* BJ, *may mga gamit na s'ya*. In fact, his friends in show biz couldn't think of anything to give him on his last birthday," the mother said.

If she'd allow him, he'd buy an iPod. "*Madami na po kasi akong* toys," said BJ, the bright boy named "Tolits" in a series of ads for a brand of detergent.

Analiza explained to him: "You're too young, BJ. You might just lose the iPod, especially because you're always running around the set."

For his 8th birthday, his parents got BJ a mini-motorbike that he now drives around their subdivision. "*Pero may alalay*," BJ's mom pointed out.



BATTERY-OPERATED robot bought in Hong Kong, with money from "Tito Joey" de Leon.

TOYS/VIDEO GAMES

BJ: *Binili ko po sa* Hong Kong *ito* (shows a battery-operated robot called Space Fighter). *'Yung pera, galing kay Tito* Joey (de Leon.)

Yun pong mga games sa PS2 (Play Station 2) *ay* sponsored *lahat ng* 'Eat... Bulaga!' *Marami pa pong bala sa kotse. Ang paborito kong laruin ay yung* 'Star Wars' *at* 'Grand Theft Auto.'

Analiza: Some of these came from Bossing (Vic Sotto), Wally, Mr. (Tony) Tuviera, and the other cast members.

His biggest remote-control car is a gift from *Kuya* Germs (Moreno).

BJ: *May tao pa po yan sa loob, at saka may susi. Yung susunod na mas malaki, yung* Extreme Sports Racing Car, *bigay po ng* staff *ng* 'Lovely Day.'

Analiza: The other RC is from Mayor (Joric) Gacula of Tatay, Rizal.

BJ: Thunder Tiger *po ang tawag d'yan. Regalo po yan nung* birthday *ko* (March 27).

Analiza: The family's birthday gift to him is a mini-motorbike. Actually, all my boys were asking for a motorbike. My husband and I hesitated--*baka kasi maging mitsa pa ng buhay nila*--until we saw this bike. We just make sure BJ is wearing his helmet, and arm and leg protectors all the time.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BJ: *Isa lang ang gitara ko, pero si Kuya* Marion *marami. Palaging pong tinatabi ni kuya yung gitara ko, hindi ko tuloy mahanap.*

Analiza: We bought this because we want him to take guitar lessons in the future.

BJ: *Ayan pala eh!*

Analiza: The kids also own a drum set. *May* beat *si* BJ, *pero hindi pa masyadong marunong.*

BJ: *Meron din kaming* keyboards. *Nakakapindot din po ako.*

CLOTHES

BJ: *Paborito ko po ito* (shows two long-sleeved, button-down shirts designed by Eric Pineda, in blue and baby blue colors) kasi ito yung ginamit ko sa "That's My Boy" *at sa* awards night (2005 Metro Manila Film Festival).*Pero kung ako po ang pipili ng isusuot, ang gusto ko sando lang kasi po presko.*

INQUIRER: *Sando sa* awards night?

BJ: *'Pag pormal po, susto ko Amerikana* (formal two-piece suit, worn with necktie). *Kasi po nangangati ako sa barong* Tagalog. *Itong amerikana, sinuot ko sa* grand finals *ng* "That's My Boy." Favorite color *ko po ang* blue. *Parati na lang po* black *ang* colors *ng amerikana. Ang gusto ko nga po talaga, yung* pants black *tapos* blue *ang pang-itaas.*

SHOES

Analiza: Converse and Mario D' Boro provide most of BJ's shoes.

BJ: *Gusto ko po ito* (shows a canvass rubber shoes from Converse) *dahil* color green. *Mayroon din pong* red and blue, *pero nakakasawa na po dahil* favorite color *ko nga po yung* blue. Blue *na nga po ang Amerikana ko tapos pati sapatos* blue *pa rin? Dapat hindi na po.Pag dating sa pormal, gusto ko po ito* (black leather loafers) *kasi po kapag suot ko hindi nangangalay ang mga daliri ng paa ko.Ayaw ko din po ng* hi-cut *na sapatos. Mainit po kasi. Kaya ito po ang ginagamit kong pang-*basketball (low-cut Converse rubber shoes in black and white). *Talagang pang-sports po ito.* Player *po ako ng* basketball *sa* subdivision *namin.*

HE'D rather wear this suit to formal events, "*kasi po nangangati ako sa barong* Tagalog."

THE NEXT time he shops for shades, BJ wants to get a violet.

ACCESSORIES

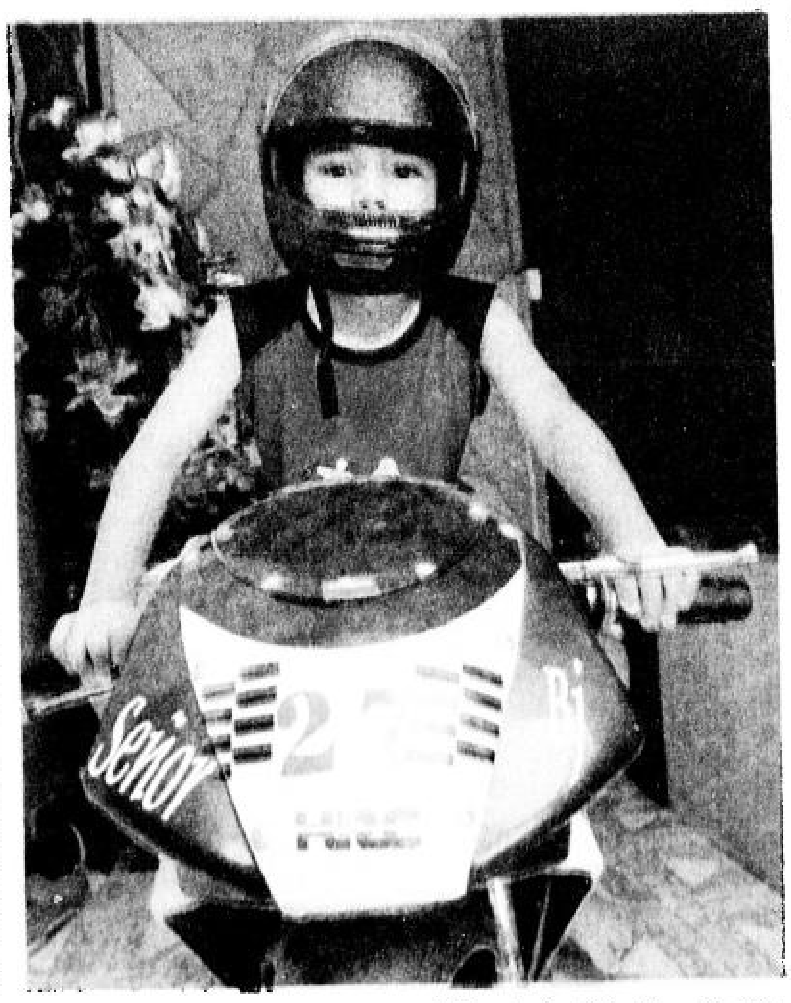
Kapag po bibili ako ng shades, *kailangan po yung maganda ang kulay. Gusto ko ngayon po 'yung* color red. *Bagay po s'ya sa maraming damit.* Next time *kapag bibili po ulit gusto ko* violet *naman.*

Ang paborito ko pong sombrero ay yung may butas sa ulo (sun visor). *Kasi po hindi mainit sa ulo. Ang pinaka-ayaw ko po ay yung sumbrerong maong. Ang init nun!*

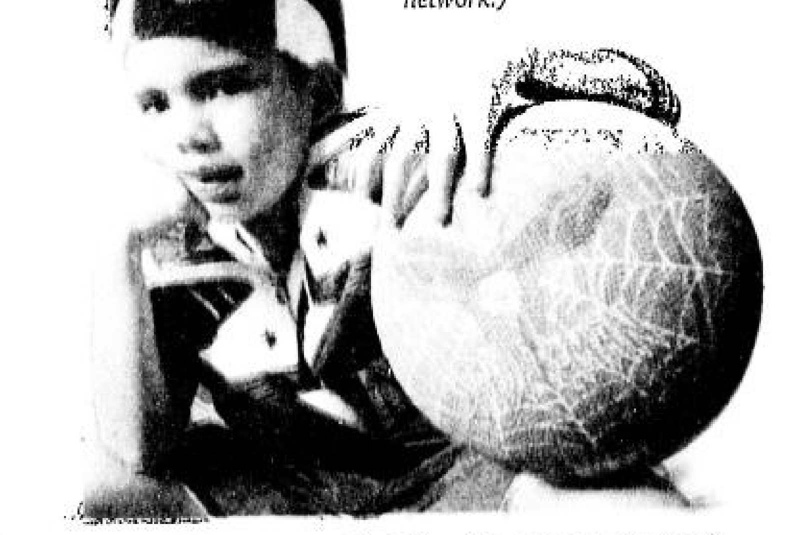
(BJ is in the cast of "Eat... Bulaga!" He is also in the newest fantaserye, "Fantastikids," which premieres tomorrow on the Kapuso network.)

BJ'S JERSEYS. He's been a member of the basketball team in his subdivision for two years now.

BJ'S FAVORITE headgear is this sun visor— "'*Yun pong sumbrerong may butas sa ulo.*"



HE DRIVES around in this mini motorbike, the family's gift on his 8th birthday.



BJ IDOLIZES NBA superstars Yao Ming, ("*magaling mag*-shoot"), Shaquile O' Neal ("*magaling mag*-dunk") and Tracy McGrady ("*magaling sa* three points").

Why hasn't Julia left for H'wood?

JULIA Clarete

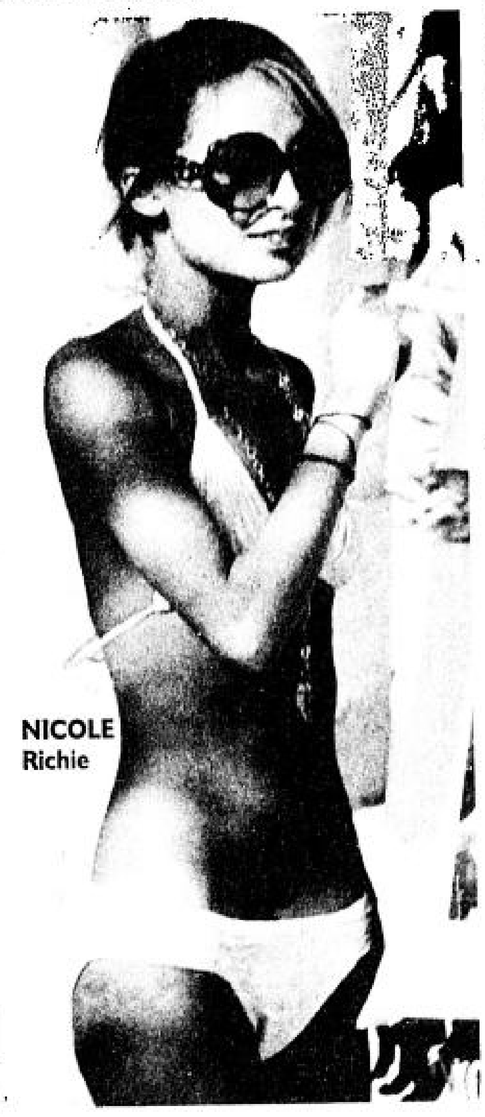
JULIA CLARETE HAS BEEN putting off her two-month trip to Hollywood since she won it in November, for fear that local viewers would forget her if she's gone for that long.

The trip is one of her prizes as winner of ABC 5's reality talent search, "Hollywood Dream." Julia was supposed to shoot two movies there—"Wrinkles" and "UN Murders"—for Fil-Am filmmakers

Pops Fernandez

A CLOSE associate of theirs recommended estranged couple Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez for host and judge, respectively, on the forthcoming "Philippine Idol."

How about "Family Feud"? (Kidding.) Martin's girlfriend, Katrina Ojeda, is reportedly pregnant.


NICOLE Richie

Too thin

NICOLE RICHIE, whose drastic weight loss spawned speculation that she has an eating disorder, acknowledges she is "too thin" and is getting treatment.

According to the Associated Press, Richie, 24, told Vanity Fair in its June issue: "I wouldn't want any young girl looking at me and saying, 'That's what I want to look like.'" The mag will be on newsstands this week.

JULIANNE Moore

Reel meets real

IN HER latest film, "Freedomland," Julianne Moore plays a woman whose son was kidnapped. In real life, AP reported, the actress is helping the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to keep kids safe.

HALLE Berry

Wants to adopt

HALLE Berry says she wants to adopt a child—someday.

"I will adopt if it doesn't happen for me naturally," the 39-year-old actress said in a recent interview with TV newsmagazine "Extra," which AP quoted in a report.

Crazy, fun

JESSICA Alba, host of the 2006 MTV Movie Awards, told AP on Monday: "It's always a crazy, fun show, and I can't wait to be right in the middle of the action."

Alba, 25, is nominated for three golden popcorn trophies—Sexiest Performance for "Sin City" and Best Hero and Best On-screen Team with Michael Chiklis, Chris Evans and Ioan Gruffudd for "Fantastic Four."

The awards will be filmed June 3 at Sony Picture Studios in Culver City, California. The show airs June 8.

A little nervous

IN TRAVELERS Rest, South Carolina, Kevin Costner, 51, confessed he was nervous when his unnamed band gave its first performance last week at the BMW Charity Pro-Am golf tournament.

"We didn't have a chance to do a sound check," Costner told AP. He played acoustic guitar on his own rock songs.

Keira's gown sold

RUSHES

IN LONDON, the off-shoulder dress worn by British film star Keira Knightley at this year's Academy Awards was auctioned on the Internet to help drought victims in East Africa.

A bidder from Chicago won the deep-claret Vera Wang taffeta silk gown with a bid of 4,301 pounds ($7,860 dollars).

"It's brilliant that this dress has raised this much," Knightley told Agence France Presse.

Perfect irony

IN NEW YORK, Brooke Shields said "the irony is perfect" that her daughter, Grier, and Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter, Suri, were born on the same day, AP reported.

Shields and Cruise had a public spat last year after the "Mission: Impossible III" star criticized the actress for taking antidepressants after the birth of daughter Rowan, who turns 3 this month.

ANNA Nicole Smith

Go ahead, sue

IN WASHINGTON, AFP reported that the US Supreme Court ruled ex-Playboy playmate Anna Nicole Smith can pursue her legal battle to claim a multi-million dollar share of her late billionaire husband's estate.

Smith is the subject of pregnancy rumors, according to AP.

Howard K. Stern, has issued this statement: "If Anna Nicole is pregnant, she obviously doesn't want anybody to know yet. If she's not pregnant, she's not denying the rumor because she thinks it's funny how much of a stir it's causing. She'll leave it up to you to guess which one it is."

Okay, that really helps.

Who're they kidding?

VINCE Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston aren't fooling David Letterman.

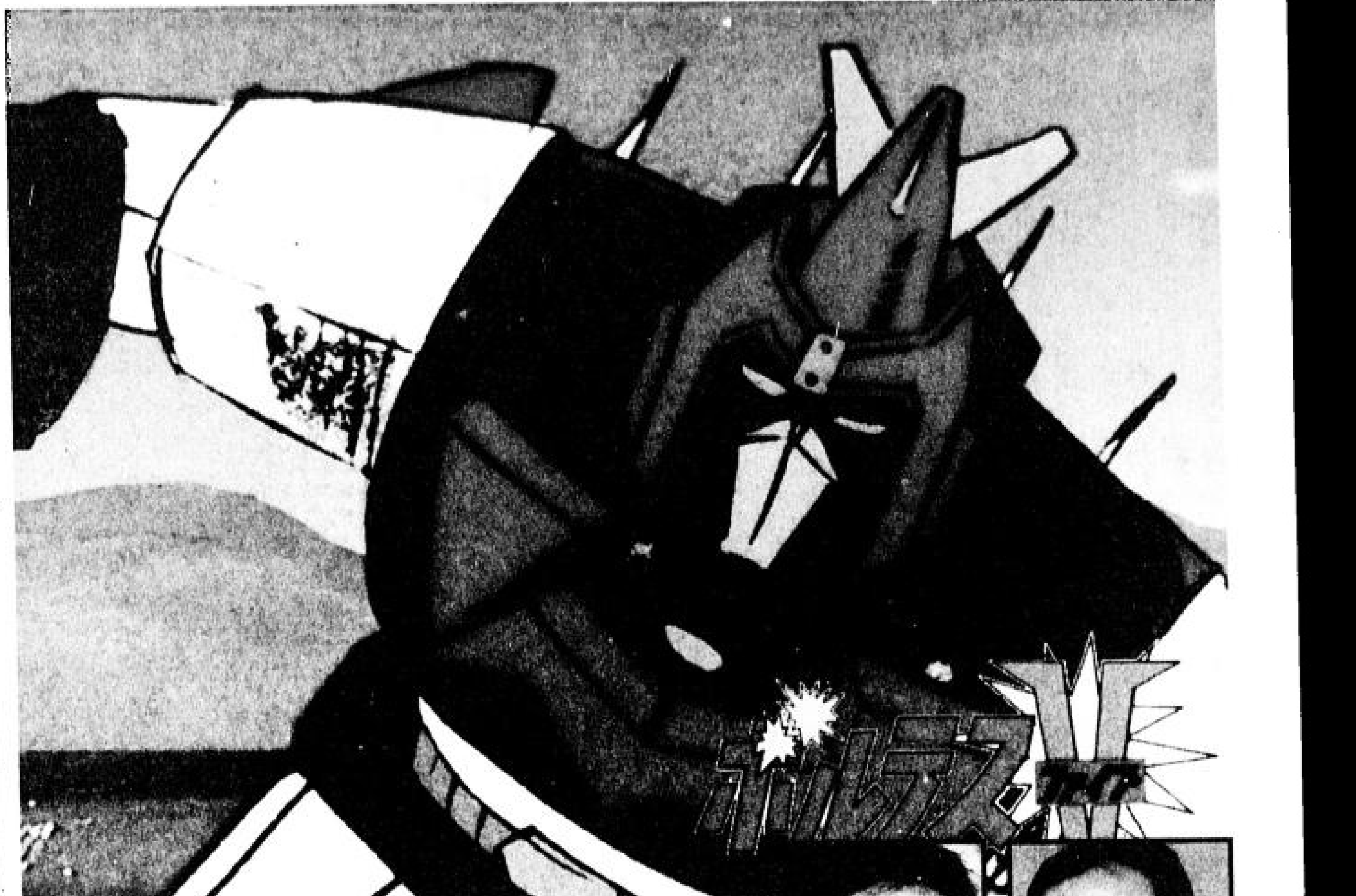
With Vaughn as a guest on "The Late Show" in New York, Letterman took the approach of presuming the relationship, AP reported.

"Hey, nice going on that Jennifer Aniston thing," said the late-night host.

VINCE Vaughn

Embarrassed and amused, Vaughn retorted: "It's very nice of you to say that, Dave. It's been kind of interesting for me, and I just choose not to talk about my private life that much publicly."

The actor eventually addressed the audience, "Do you like the way he just kind of takes the approach that it (the undisclosed relationship) is a fact?"



'Voltes V' is back with all-star 'cast'

DENNIS Trillo

SANDARA Park

By Paul Daza
Contributor

REVIEW

FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF DISney-Pixar, which uses the voices of popular Hollywood actors to dub Japanese animé features like "Spirited Away" and "Princess Mononoke" into English, local cable channel Hero now does the same for "Voltes V," perhaps the most famous Japanese robot series ever to be shown on Philippine television.

In the late '70s, "Voltes V" became a TV phenomenon when it premiered on free TV. GMA 7's version used Filipino voice talents speaking in English to bring the tale of robots, heroic brothers, and feuding half-brothers to life.

Now, more than 20 years later, Hero is re-releasing the show in Filipino with a celebrity voice cast. In the lineup are Dennis Trillo, Joseph Bitangcol, Sandara Park, Michael de Mesa, Nikki Valdez, Richie Chan and many others. The folks at Hero are apparently hoping that our country's unflagging obsession with movie and TV stars will be the marketing gimmick which will entice a new generation of fans to watch a sword-wielding robot that had to defeat a new beast fighter from the planet Bozania every week. This new version (which also boasts of an all-new, simpler Filipino translation) has been dubbed—pun intended—"Voltes V: Evolution".

For the most part, the cast of "Voltes V: Evolution" does excellent work. As team leader Steve Armstrong, award-winning actor Trillo brings a pitch-perfect mix of confidence and youthful conviction to the role. As Jamie, the lone female of the team, Park is also terrific. Her Korean-accented Filipino adds an immeasurable Asian flavor to the show, which was created in Japan. As the villain Prince Zardoz, Bitangcol is suitably menacing and angry. Gone, however, is the haughty aristocratic demeanor of the character which fans heard in GMA's English version. Of course, it's no fault of Bitangcol's that it's hard or impossible to sound like an arrogant prince when you're speaking in Tagalog.

The biggest improvement in this new celebrity version has to be the casting of child actor Igi Boy Flores as the pre-teen Little John, youngest member of the team. In the original "Voltes V," Little John was played by an adult who increased the pitch of his or her voice to sound like a child. In "Evolution," it's wonderful to hear the voice of a real little boy whenever the animated Little John opens his mouth.

Excellent as the new voice cast is, it's hard not to miss the distinctive inflections of actor Jonee Gamboa as Voltes V's white-haired co-creator, Doctor Smith. Alex Agcaoili plays Dr. Smith in "Evolution" wonderfully, but he's no Jonee Gamboa. But then again, who is?

Aged very well

In the 20-odd years since Pinoys were introduced to "Voltes V," the animated cartoon has aged very well. The timeless, emotional story of three brothers' search for their supposedly dead father, coupled with the spectacular action scenes involving mechanical monsters, was for an entire generation the first action-adventure-sci-fi soap opera. The animation remains impressive by TV standards, especially when one remembers that computer-assisted animation was a decade or so away when "Voltes V" was created in the '70s.

With its new star-studded cast and more conversational Filipino script, there's no doubt that "Evolution" will allow a new generation of kids to see why their dads were addicted to this animated series. Now, all that remains is for the folks behind "Evolution" to translate the songs which begin and end the show into Filipino as well!

("Voltes V: Evolution" is shown on the Hero TV cable channel Saturdays and Sundays at 8:30 p.m.)

Sweet and silly summer sojourn

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

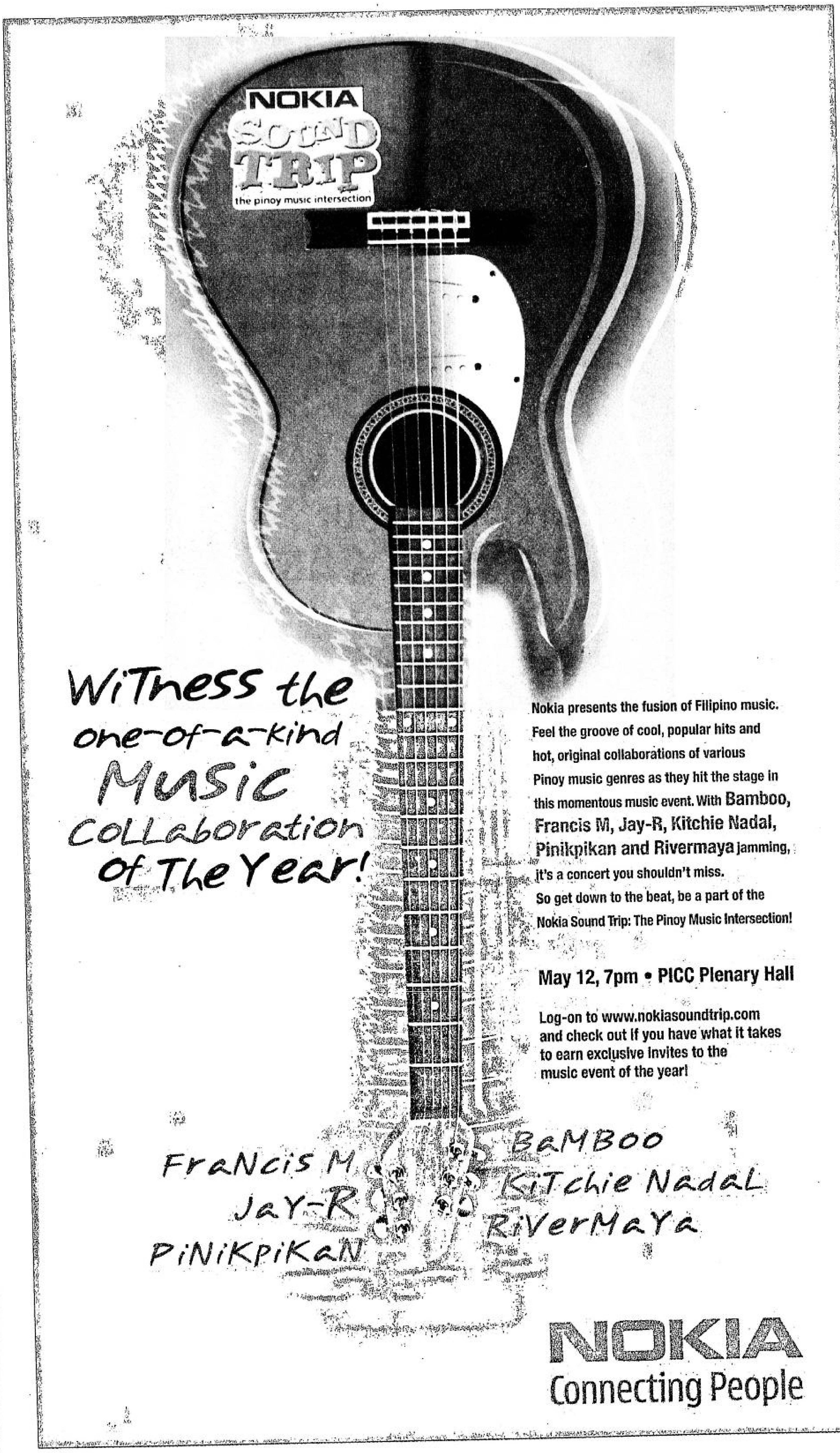
REVIEW

THE TEEN COMEDY "AQUAMARINE" harks back to the days of campy romances between humans and legendary beings in movies like "Splash" and "Date With an Angel." It's also a familiar story that's been remade and regurgitated in magic-oriented local films, where love unfailingly saves the day and is unmindful of all physical differences. That tested formula is given a new spin in "Aquamarine," a silly, starry-eyed, and smartly written teen adventure that even older audiences can appreciate.

The characters are also smart and emotionally aware teen girls that today's younger viewers can see themselves as, or feel for. These are best friends Hailey (young pop singer JoJo Levesque) and Claire (Emma Roberts), who worry about their impending separation. They're spending the last few days of their summer vacation together, as Hailey and her mother need to relocate to Australia for a coveted job opportunity. The girls playfully and unintentionally invoke a magical solution to their woes. Enter the bubbly Aquamarine (Sara Paxton), a real mermaid, who offers them a single wish if they find someone who'll love her in three days. Because then her undersea dad may release her from a pre-arranged marriage with a merman that she has no feelings for.

It's derivative but, surprisingly, not patience-testing or annoying at all. Paxton is such a sunshine-y, friendly presence as the displaced mermaid, it's easy to suspend disbelief. The other characters fit snugly as well: Raymond (Jake McDorman), the blond lifeguard that she goes head-over-fishtail for, is gentlemanly and sensitive. And even when we've seen Levesque and Roberts' characters a hundred times before, they both do decently as innocent, well-meaning and arguably uncool kids who grow up a little by the adventure's end.

The breezy dialogue conveniently writes off Aquamarine's world; we never get to see any other magical creature and vistas, and we don't need to. The relationship between Aquamarine and Raymond is creatively tackled, and makes one ponder if a person can honestly and believably love another in just three days. "Aquamarine" answers that wisely, and serves up a nice, somewhat bittersweet ending that one wouldn't have expected from a cute, wholesome summer flick about friendships, a mermaid and magic wishes.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RICHARD Dreyfuss

Dreyfuss trumps . . .

From page A3-3

movie begins on a celebration night with noise and crowd and then this horrible thing happens which is noise, crash, bang and boom! I said to Wolfgang, "You don't need to hear one line. It's all done. You can see them but you don't have to hear it." For 90 minutes, you can just hear people seeing people going but why do you have to hear the lines? I still say that if they had done it (make it a silent film), it would have been the best film of the year (laughter).

Congratulations on your recent marriage. Any chance that your honeymoon will be on a cruise ship?

My fiancée at that time and my wife now, Svetlana, and I went on the Queen Mary from New York to London and back. When I got on the Queen Mary, I walked in... just to see what it would look like. I would go back, you know. It was great and I would do it again in a minute. Two days later, we started shooting.

How did you meet Svetlana?

We were telling our story one day and then we looked at each other. We realized that we were reducing into words something so magical... so we stopped. I don't tell the story anymore. I will say this and I mean it. I'm 58. I never expected love. I never expected any of this to happen to me.

What was the hardest to film, among the various ways that people die in this movie?

Someone actually said to me, "So in what way would you prefer to go, among those shown in this movie—by electrocution, burning or drowning?" I said, "Sleep" (laughter). That's the way I want to go, which I have no intention of doing.

What makes German director Wolfgang Peterson different from other filmmakers?

He's the only director I know who should be wearing lederhosen (laughter as he stood up and did his version of a German dance). He's fun and you can't help but speak like this when you're with him. I always end up talking like this (laughter). He's a civilized filmmaker. He goes home for dinner and that's a big deal. It means we're going home for dinner. Wow. But he worked a really hard day's work so it was tough. I became an actor because it was easy (laughter). You just kind of memorize and say things. This movie was not easy at all to do. This was the first time ever that I really earned my salary and I want a raise (laughter).

Wolfgang had different kinds of soup served to the cast and crew at eleven o'clock in the morning every day. Did you have a favorite soup?

None but I loved the fact that he would rate a soup. He would say, "Nine!" and the word would go out. "It was a nine!" (laughter).

You really didn't have soup?

Sometimes I had the soup. I wasn't a soup guy. I was usually so tired. I was in the Jacuzzi. They had a Jacuzzi next to the set and I was in there whining and complaining.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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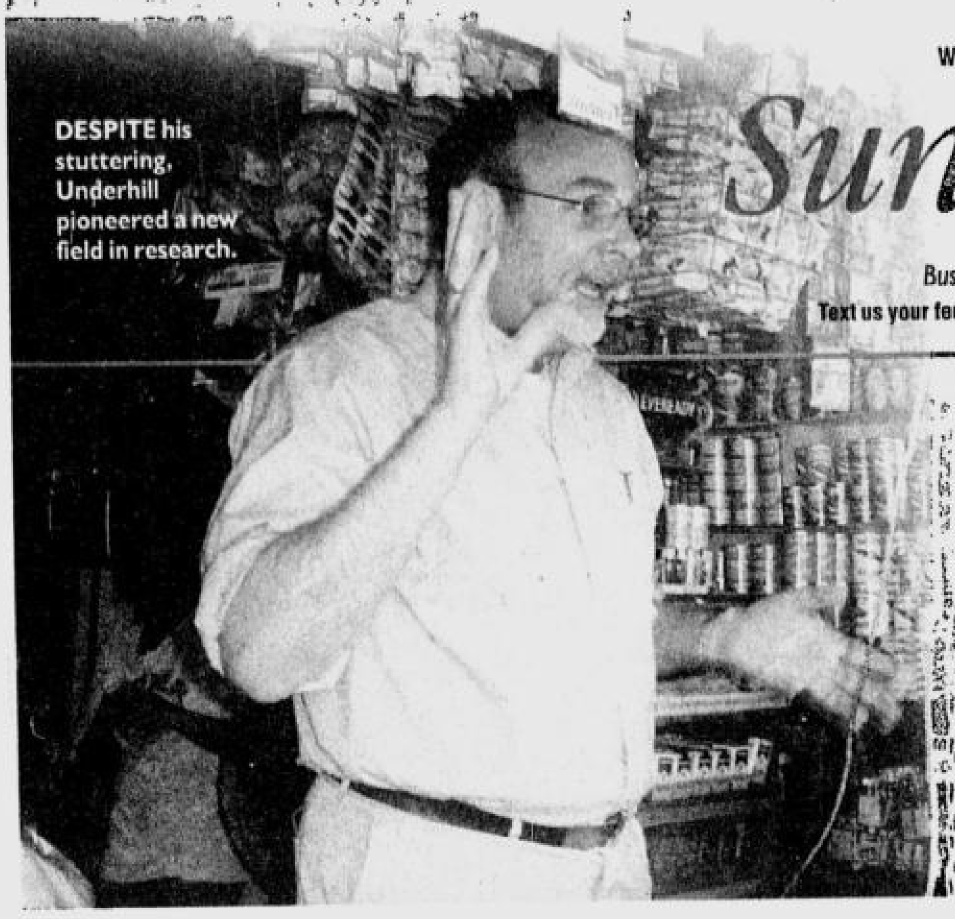

DESPITE his stuttering, Underhill pioneered a new field in research.

A man who finds out why we buy what we buy

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PACO UNDERHILL'S NAME may not ring a bell to most Filipinos but to many retailers, Underhill holds the key to making their cash registers ring.

Underhill is the guru of shopping. He studies how consumers shop and wrote "Why We Buy"—a bestseller which talks about The Science of Shopping. He and his group, under the firm Envirosell, "track" consumers as soon as they walk in a shop—follow them and see what they touch, try on, and eventually buy or not buy. They time how long a purchase takes, or how the buyer looks at an item. They put cameras in a shop (with the permission of the owner of course) and record consumers shopping. Yes, they have videotaped pickpockets and shoplifters along the way.

He and his team then go through the data and make recommendations to the shop owners or manufacturers—such as changing the labels or the location of particular items. The objective of hiring Underhill and his group is to find out how to make consumers buy more in a particular shop.

"Combining traditional market research techniques, anthropological observation methodologies and videotaping, Envirosell has established its reputation as an innovator in commercial research and as an advocate for consumer friendly shopping environments and packaging," its website states.

Biggest clients

His clients include the biggest companies in the world—Starbucks, Adidas, Coke, Fisher Price, Johnson & Johnson, L'Oreal, Levi Strauss, Philip Morris, Samsonite, Bloomingdale's, McDonald's, Burger King, Wal-Mart—and he operates in several countries.

Underhill was in town recently upon the invitation of Paolo Mercado, managing director of Publicis Manila, and talked to the advertising agency's clients which include Nestle Philippines Inc., Metrobank, PSBank, Procter & Gamble.

Mercado gave the INQUIRER an exclusive interview with Underhill, who lives in New York City—five houses from Carrie Bradshaw's apartment in the defunct TV show "Sex and the City."

Underhill candidly says to ask him why he finally an accepted an invitation to come to the Philippines after turning down numerous invitations.

"I've had numerous invitations to come here but he [Mercado] was the first to give a compelling invitation," said Underhill.

He said Mercado painted a different picture of what Publicis is in the Philippines compared with that of other agencies in the country. "He is doing work on a number of things that interest me."

Mercado has been espousing a concept called "shopper's market" where he is working on a mindset that there is a science to attracting shoppers to your store.

In other words, there is science to shopping.

Underhill specifically points to a work Publicis is doing with *sari-sari* stores— what he calls the 'Ma and Pa' stores or more generally known as Mom and Pop stores—small kiosks all over the world that sell a variety of goods, located in residential areas.

Ma and Pa stores

Underhill said if somebody pays him, the one subject he would like to study and explore in Asia is the Ma and Pa store. He said this is an emerging market issue especially for large global consumer product manufacturers.

In the Philippines there are over 500,000 sari sari stores all over the country. And a huge percentage of the sales of consumer goods manufacturers like P&G and Unilever are still sold via these stores.

During his talk to Publicis' clients, Underhill said "the visual language is evolving faster than the spoken language. The connection between the eyes and the brains has never been better. The design studies all over the world have people that are under the age of 30. You have to think who you're connecting to."

He cited as an example hotel stationery. The address and phone numbers and fax numbers are written in tiny fonts. And yet, Underhill asked, who are the usual guests of hotels? Businessmen whose eyesight are not

A MAN/ B2

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FREE @ Plan 2000
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- 1.3 Megapixel Camera with 4x Digital Zoom
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Samsung X660	3,900	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Samsung E350	7,400	5,000	1,750	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson W550i	12,700	10,350	7,000	FREE	FREE
02 XDA II Mini	31,000	26,000	21,000	6,000	FREE

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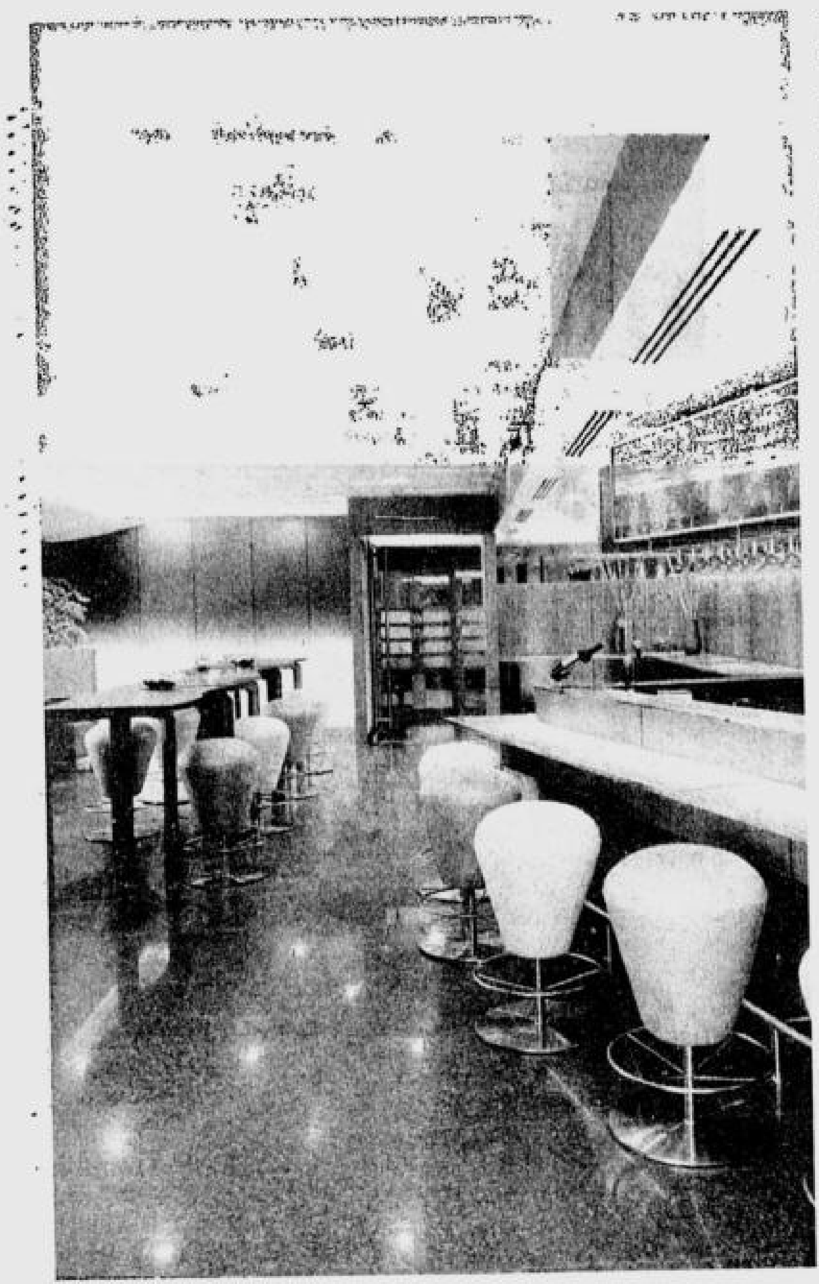
sun CELLULAR
Everything Important Is Under the Sun

No need to go to Switzerland for hospitality degree

Local group sets up school with foreign firm to train Filipinos



STUDENTS will have hands-on training in running a restaurant from experts in the field.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE FILIPINOS' REPUTATION for dedicated service with a smile has endeared them to hotel and restaurant chains here and abroad.

Enter any five-star resort or hotel around the world and there's a big possibility that there will be at least one Filipino in key departments, such as the concierge, housekeeping, rooms and food and beverage.

Unfortunately, very few get to more senior management positions.

One of the reasons is the lack of a relevant degree in the hospitality industry, since very few can afford to go to the prestigious schools in the United States or Switzerland preferred by top hotel and restaurant chains.

It is this gap that a group of local and foreign investors wants to fill with the establishment of the Endurun Colleges in Ortigas Center.

Endurun founder and president Jack Tuason tells the INQUIRER that the school, which will take in its first students in June this year, is intended to provide Filipinos with the right skills and theoretical background they will need to make it in management positions once they graduate.

"What we want is to produce business graduates who will work in hotels or restaurants," Tuason says. "We want to produce managers."

The curriculum includes subjects such as languages, wine appreciation and food preparation to be given by veterans in the industry.

Tuason says the professors were chosen based not only on their educational background but also on their actual experience in the highly competitive hospitality industry, the single biggest in the world.

Tuason says there is no better time to put up a school like Endurun because of the growing demand for talent in the burgeoning hospitality industry in Asia.

There are countless spas, resorts, restaurants and hotels coming up in the region as Europeans, Americans and the more affluent Asians realize what Asia has to offer.

It is because of the projected growth in the hospitality industry in Asia that Les Roches of Switzerland, one of the oldest hotel schools in Switzerland, has decided to partner with Endurun, the latest partner school of Les Roches outside its native Switzerland.

Les Roches president David Graves said during a recent conference call at the Endurun offices that Les Roches was encouraged to come to the Philippines because he believed that Filipinos have what it takes to become leaders in the industry.

Graves said Les Roches knows this first hand as it had its share of Filipino graduates, a number of whom went on to become forces to reckon with in the industry.

JACK Tuason, John Suits, co-founder of Enderun and Daniel Perez, executive assistant manager of Enderun

Under the partnership with Les Roches, Endurun students have the option to get a two-year certificate program from Les Roches at Endurun, or move on to Switzerland for two more years of education to get a bachelor's degree from the school.

Those who will choose to stay will get a bachelor's degree in International Hospitality Management from Endurun Colleges, majoring in either Culinary Arts or Hotel Administration.

The program consists of six semesters on the Endurun campus and two semesters of internship in partner establishments.

The annual fee runs up to about $5,000 or P250,000.

Endurun Colleges is so optimistic about the prospects of hospitality industry education that the group is building a 1.7-hectare campus at Fort Bonifacio with a modern culinary center.

Tuason says that with the college campus in place, he feels that there is no more need for Filipinos to spend so much in education abroad, when they can get a comparable experience and education in the Philippines.

State of today's retail, according to consumers worldwide

AUTHOR AND SCIENCE OF shopping guru Paco Underhill recently talked about interesting developments in the retail industry based on his clients worldwide:

1. Cutting edge of retail is generally where money is young.

Underhill stated money is not young in London, Paris, Frankfurt and New York. But it is young in Moscow, Dublin, Sao Paolo, Mexici City, Shanghai, Mumbai.

2. One of the primary motivations of construction is how to control labor costs.

Labor cost is not an issue in places like the Philippines, Mexico and Brazil. "Emerging markets are less likely to look to Europe and North America for ideas. Emerging markets need to start leading."

3. How do I fit into a multitasking life?

Underhill stated "value is not just a price issue. Price is not the only factor that determines whether a person will buy a product, consumers are looking at values and merits."

4. The Ma and Pa stores are booming.

Consumer firms acknowledge that these stores will be a major contributor to sales growth.

5. Social stratification of retail is over.

Underhill stated that in the past, the rich do not cross over to shopping in mass-based shops, but today, "Forbes Park residents are comfortable buying a Coke from a *sari-sari* store."

6. Used is cool.

The popularity of used clothes or *ukay-ukay* is not just a trend in the Philippines. Underhill said there are stores in Japan that span several floors, selling used clothes, ebay and Craig's List carry second hand items for sale.

7. Finding new ways to sell the same stuff.

8. Lingerie and mobile are the hottest products.

9. Most staff in emerging market are highly motivated, well-educated, and trainable and loyal.

10. The use of shopping carts is declining as shopping missions change. Consumers go to stores more often in the 21st century than 20 years ago. Design for private labels is one of the opportunities in Philippine packaging.

11. Family eating rituals are changing.

12. Shoppers of clothes are two kinds—those who buy for special occasions; and those who buy for everyday wear.

"Many labels fall in love with the Saturday night market but the market is the Monday to Friday."

13. The emerging market innovation is finding ways to get beyond the price. Underhill cited the Roppongi Hills mall which is a shopping complex, library, art museum, commercial office, hotel, residential place in one.

14. Selling to women. Shops have to adjust to the women market in terms of design, amenities and better understanding of why women shop.

15. Design alone is not the answer—the fastest growing retail channel are anti-design.

16. Mall owners need to evolve from landlords to place-makers —owning malls is not just about real estate and collecting rent.

17. It's important for businesses and their staff to be having fun because chances are consumers are having fun too.

18. It is all about solutions—understanding and innovating at the point of sale; learning how to compete with everyone; balancing global needs with local identities. *M.Q. Espino*

A man who finds out...

From page B1

as good as 20-year-olds.

On top of being more in touch with one's consumers, Underhill reminded his audience that "we live in a world owned by man, managed by men, yet we expect the women to participate in it."

And yet Underhill says by 2010 the doctoral degrees in medicine, law, pharmacy will be held largely by women.

He said it is not farfetched to soon see gas stations crossing with nail salons.

Men, he said, will become "exotic household pets."

He pointed out most grocery settings adopt designs made in the 1930s with milk on the left side and the meat on the right back side. But times are changing—many shoppers want to get in and out of a grocery quick. And there are shoppers who are willing to sacrifice money for less time.

"We need to re-think store planning. The way someone shops for coffee is different all over the world."

UNDERHILL says to most client, "the obvious isn't always transparent."

How to set up a spa without getting wet

By L. A. Villariba

THE SPA INDUSTRY IS SEEN AS the fastest growing segment in the travel industry today. Hotel chains like the Mandarin Oriental, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Banyan Tree and Four Seasons are building spas all over the world as guest surveys show that more travelers consider a spa necessary in their choice of destinations.

Local spas have responded to the worldwide trend. The Department of Tourism saw it fit to organize a Spa Association of the Philippines in 2004 as part of its Wellness and Medical Tourism thrust. SAPI started with only seven founding members. Today, it has 80.

The spa boom spawned a spa school. It is the first such school in the country with international and government (Tesda) accreditations.

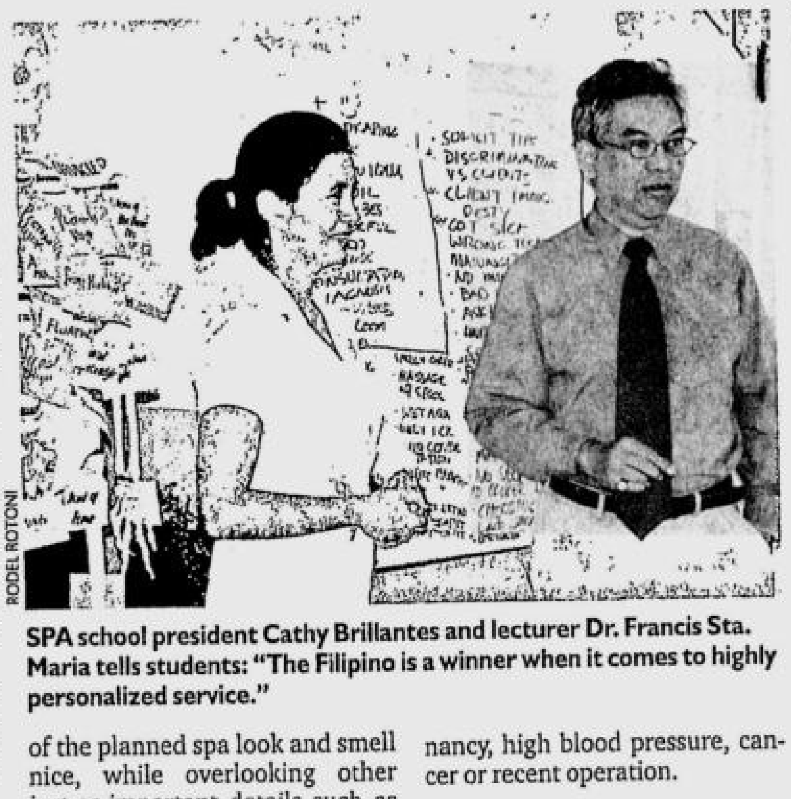
Spa Professional International Development Center president Cathy Brillantes, a graduate of Cornell University Executive Development Program in Spa Management, cites a Cornell study that links "a vacation spent in a destination spa (to) clearer thinking, higher energy levels and greater productivity at work."

A three-letter word

While the business looks promising, Cathy cautions, "It is not enough to offer massage and be called a spa.

The word spa is the acronym for the original Latin words *salus per aqua*, meaning health through water, which described the early Roman bathhouse.

She cautions that statistics have shown that many new spas fail in the first six months of operation due to the operator's lack of knowledge in what makes a successful spa. "Many aspiring spa owners spend most of their time and effort on making the interiors of the planned spa look and smell nice, while overlooking other just-as-important details such as choosing the right concept, space and revenue planning, a customer-driven menu, proper training, controlling costs and effective pricing."



RODEL ROTONI

SPA school president Cathy Brillantes and lecturer Dr. Francis Sta. Maria tells students: "The Filipino is a winner when it comes to highly personalized service."

She notes that inadequate training may lead to incorrect treatment procedures that can be disastrous to health and business.

As founder of SpaAsia Award-nominated Nurture Spa in Tagaytay, Brillantes ensures that a spa menu of therapeutic massage, body scrubs, wraps and facial treatments be served in a safe, calming, nurturing and ethical environment.

She recommends only the highest quality spa products—proven safe, therapeutic and beneficial to the skin—be used. A good spa product delivers on its promise of relaxation, stress release and better skin tone.

It is not only proper but also imperative that spa practice include client consultation to ensure that no contraindications to spa therapy exist, such as pregnancy, high blood pressure, cancer or recent operation.

Spa ethics

At the spa school, student-therapists are taught the holistic approach to spa therapy. They are given a good grasp of anatomy and physiology to go with effective and safe massage techniques—from Thai, Shiatsu to Sports massage—with the end in view of "providing a rejuvenating, healing and wonderful spa experience for the guest."

"Being driven blindly by profit in the spa industry may be the wrong motivation as this may lead to compromises in ethics, standards and quality. Because a spa typically takes two to three years to be able to stabilize and get its proper return on investment, owners should have the capacity and tenacity to be able to withstand the challenges of the first few years."

Her success formula: "Passion for the business, strong interest in health and wellness and a strong artistic and creative streak can be the driving forces that will help the spa owner tackle the challenges inherent in any start-up business."

She tells owners to decide on whether to create a high profile, expand the business base (for a gym, beauty parlor or derm clinic, or offer guest service (for a resort/hotel).

Then make a comprehensive study of competition: find out their image, target, pricing, marketing and operations.

Once the concept and target clientele are identified, the design of the spa comes into play. The spa owner should work closely with architects and interior designers in not only making the physical premises attractive and pleasing to the senses, but in ensuring revenue generation, safety, easy maintenance, and time saving.

What's in the menu

Choosing a name and planning a spa menu that is unique, attractive and in sync with a defined concept comes next. "It must make clear choices on what product services to offer."

Ensuring the right staff involves proper recruitment and selection, based not necessarily on skills, but more importantly, on attitude. Therapists have a great responsibility as they interact with guests on a very personal and intimate basis.

She points out that hiring physical therapists is not essential to a successful spa. She would rather go for choosing staff who are humble of heart, pure of intention, willing to learn, attentive to detail and are focused on serving others, noting that this, plus facility with English, is why Filipinos excel over other Asians in the field.

Selecting therapists on the basis of attitude over work experience, then training them to the proper standards may prove to be practical in the investment end. It prevents the spa manager from ending up with acquired wrong techniques that are harder to correct.

Cost of feeling good

Costing the treatments and pricing them properly are determined from direct costs (laundry, products and labor) and indirect costs (electricity, water and overhead costs like rent, communication and marketing).

Choosing the right price means looking at the market, the competition and cost structure. A good marketing plan creates strategies to reach the target market and embarks on a communication strategy that tells the concept and unique selling proposition clearly.

Back to school

The spa school, located along East Service Road on South Superhighway in Sucat, Parañaque, helps the industry players meet the standards for a safe, ethical, professionally run and financially viable venture.

Topics include a four-hour course on "Understanding the Spa & Wellness Industry" designed for hoteliers, architects, interior designers and medical health practitioners to acquire a deeper appreciation of the history of spa, the connection to wellness, and business opportunities in the wellness market.

A starter topic on "How To Set Up a Spa" is scheduled on May 20 and every third Saturday of the month.

"Professional Spa Management" covers day-to-day operations of a spa and is slated on May 10-11.

Spa Professionals also offers spa therapy courses including Anatomy & Physiology, Swedish Massage (CIBTAC curriculum), Scrubs & Wraps, and Facials, Aromatherapy, Filipino Hilot and others. For inquiries, call 838 2170, email info@spaprofessionals.net or visit www.spaprofessionals.net.

Outsourcing ventures provide light to blind

From page B4

chief operating officer of Top Outsourcing Performance Inc. (TOP), is considering hiring more blind employees now that Alona Bat-eg, 33, a worker, and Ramon Estolas, 44, a teacher, have proven their worth.

Fabro, an events programmer by trade, infused P5 million to build the Center for Technical Excellence Integrated School Inc. (CTEIS), which trained TOP's two pioneer blind employees. It spawned TOP only months later.

Asia's first

The "blind employee" trend in outsourcing started as early as 2005 when Dr. Michael Borgonia became Asia's first visually disabled medical transcriber. Borgonia lost his sight after he was shot in the head and signed up with Total Transcription Solutions Inc. (TTSI), one of the country's oldest outsourcing firms.

But Fabro says the industry's real gamble is in hiring skilled labor from the disabled work pool who have no training in medicine.

Officials of another medical transcription firm in Baguio say the fledgling trade is conservative about addressing quick expansions because it relies on the reputation of the few players in the trade.

Medical transcription demands absolute accuracy and wrong data mistakenly transmitted to overseas medical clients will immediately taint the country's reputation, Fabro says.

Extensive supervision

Blind workers require extensive supervision by data editors, she says, although speedy improvement of the technology may find a solution to this efficiency question soon.

Mabalot says the country has yet to make a census of the blind population, but estimates place them at 3.8 million.

She says a substantial number of the blind are schooled, despite recent United Nations studies suggesting that blindness in Asia is linked to the region's growing poverty.

Mabalot and her brother, Antonio Llanes Jr., are behind the advocacy group Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (ATRIEVE).

Mabalot says her brother's advocacy is for industries to make use of technology so the visually impaired can have a wider access to jobs.

No work for the blind

Bat-eg's story, for example, is one of frustration.

"I am licensed to handle case studies, but no one would hire me. I have tried to apply at the [Department of Social Welfare and Development] but [they have been too patronizing]. I applied here in Baguio but they could not reconcile my blindness and a work load that requires field work," she narrates.

When she applied at the DSWD Region 1 office, she was curtly told to "just take care of my children."

Estolas' work history is less dramatic although he admits to spending time playing with a band of blind musicians at a city park.

According to Fabro, the outsourcing trade has a ready work pool in the medical industry's underemployed. Baguio alone has 25,137 graduates from the city's nursing universities, medical schools and medical technology colleges.

Fabro says this work force alone should sustain the small outsourcing businesses.

"There have been a lot of business concepts presented to me before, but it was medical transcription which got [me interested]," she says.

Medical transcription

Mabalot and Llanes approached Fabro about the outsourcing trade, keyed as they were about immediately training blind workers, together with the sighted, in the call center and medical transcription business.

"But we lacked the curriculum [in 2002, when CTEIS was born]... that's why we are working hand-in-hand now after [CTEIS] produced [Bat-eg and Estolas]," Fabro says.

She recalls "sharing" the concept with outsourcing firms like TTSI, and says that these industry stalwarts had no clue as to how it could build a manageable work force made up of blind talents.

Technology is key

A key issue is the very technology that allows them better work opportunities.

Mabalot admits that key computer interface software must be developed to cue blind workers about complicated data transcription operations. Current technology allows many blind workers access to the computer, but not total control over its operations.

The other complication is cost.

Fabro had one of her engineers design a transcription foot pedal which TOP is patenting as "*Ang* Pedal" because imported foot pedals are too expensive. Foot pads control the speed of audio or video data stream, freeing up the transcribers' hands so workers can manipulate the computer keyboards.

"*Ang* Pedal," which is named after its designer, a TOP engineer, also includes unique control features that cut transcription time, according to Venice Maria Velasco, TOP vice president and operating manager.

Changing the face of medical marketing

Doctor's approach is driven by savvy and keen instinct

SONY Ericsson honored Dr. Vicki Belo (second from left) and son Quark (left) at the Power Generation Forecast during Philippine Fashion Week 2006. With them are Sony Ericsson marketing manager Patrick Larraga (third from right) and fellow parent-child honorees Nonoy and Ige Gallardo (third and fourth from left), and Sabina and Celine Magat-Lopez

DR. VICKI Belo with director-son Quark Henares. Quark says, "My mom is a very creative and daring person. She keeps on breaking the mold. Before, no one wanted to be a dermatologist but now everyone's into it."

DR. VICKI BELO REMEMBERS the time when the only medical procedures advertised were those for the treatment of STDs. The Philippines' famous cosmetic dermatologist helped change that with her nontraditional approach to marketing, particularly the high-profile celebrity endorsements and use of print ads and billboards.

Pioneering as her efforts may have been, Vicki's marketing approach is driven by savvy and keen instinct. "I like my own life to be exciting," she says. "I like things to be fun, that's why my clinics are fun."

For one, patients of the Belo Medical Clinic don't have to content themselves with leafing through old tattered issues of magazines because the magazines in her clinic, she makes sure, are always new. Plus, during summer, a visit to her clinic might earn for one a free treat of "dirty" ice cream.

The way Belo sells is how she would like to be sold to. "A lot of what we offer, I test on myself, " she avers. "When I talk to a patient about a procedure, most often I do so from personal experience," she adds unflinchingly.

And yes, if her approach has been atypical, Dr. Belo is well, untraditional. "I am very gregarious, I don't talk like a doctor," she offers. Neither does she look like one. For the 10 a.m. interview, Vicki showed up in a figure hugging dress pulled tight at the waist that established without a doubt that she was her own best endorser.

That old adage about doing what we love is obviously at work here. "My whole life has been looking for a way to do what I love—which is to make people look good and feel good, thereby developing their self-confidence and their outlook in life." Apart from her passion for medicine, that love also stemmed from some of her worthwhile hobbies like keeping oneself fit (aerobics), reading self-improvement books and collecting chocolates. "My life has been in synchronicity—it all comes together in my career."

If cosmetic surgery is a creative exercise, then Vicki admits she is "artistic in a sense" because she sculpts bodies. "Almost 16 years of being a cosmetic surgeon has taught me how to automatically scan people and see where their problem areas are and sculpt them in a way that is good," she explains.

Enviable as her achievements may seem, she admits to being in awe of son Quark, writer and filmmaker. "I can't write even if my life depended on it. Quark however won a Palanca Award at 19 and has directed some of the most successful films in recent years," she says.

Quark returns the compliment, "My mom is a very creative and daring person. She keeps on breaking the mold. Before, no one wanted to be a dermatologist but now everyone's into it."

To a lot of people, Belo's creative achievement, more than the sculpting of bodies, is her deft combination of the medical arts and business. Even those in what is traditionally regarded as a creative occupation—advertising—have sat up and taken notice.

So much so that they asked Belo to speak to an audience of 5,000 people at the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu in 2001 and she has also spearheaded this year's Go Negosyo Summit along with top businessmen and women in the Philippines at the biggest gathering to train and recognize both emerging and established entrepreneurs in the country.

"It's good to know that I have not only succeeded in the medical field but that businessmen accept my ideas on how to run my clinic and that they consider me a very successful entrepreneur," she confides.

She wouldn't describe herself as a techie but Vicki likes to keep up with trends. "There is so much going on in the cosmetic surgery and dermatology industry, so you always have some new gadget to experiment with," she says.

To the competition hot on the heels of this hyperactive woman, Belo has upped the ante and moved on to new battlegrounds.

"There is a whole wide world out there! I have been called the 'Ambassadress of Beauty' for the Philippines and have been pushing our country as a world-class cosmetic surgery destination. We have very good doctors, nurses, facilities and there is hardly any language barrier with the rest of the world. I think in a few years we will be a major player in the medical tourism field."

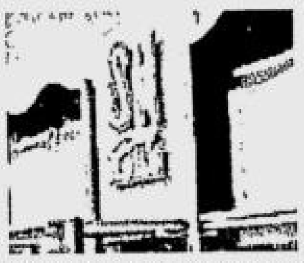
Sony Ericsson honored Belo and son Quark—among other outstanding parent-child pairs—for their vision and the trails they have blazed in their respective professions at the Power Generation Forecast during Philippine Fashion Week 2006.

Tracing Henry Sy's steps in selling- II

AFTER PERSISTING AND BUILDING SM NORTH Edsa in 1985, despite criticisms and pessimism from the business sector, taipan Henry Sy proved his critics wrong. The mall remains one of the most popular in the country.

From 1990 to 1999, he went on an expansion binge, opening nearly a mall every year.

1993—SM opens its first provincial supermall in the Queen City of the South. With its theme, shopping and dining excitement, Science Museum, and Travelers Lounge, SM City Cebu became a favorite destination of shoppers in the Western Visayas region.



IN 1999, SM City Iloilo opens in the Jaro West Diversion Road (now Benigno Aquino Jr. Road), close to the city's airport and accessible to residents of Panay and other neighboring islands.

IN 1997, two new malls, SM City Bacoor and SM City Fairview open. Located in Aguinaldo Highway, SM City Bacoor serves shoppers in Cavite and in other Calabarzon area. SM City Fairview, on the other hand, serves customers in the north Metro area.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.**, will be held on **May 23, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine Floor, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue corner H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City, Metro Manila, to consider and approve the matters set forth in the following Agenda:

AGENDA

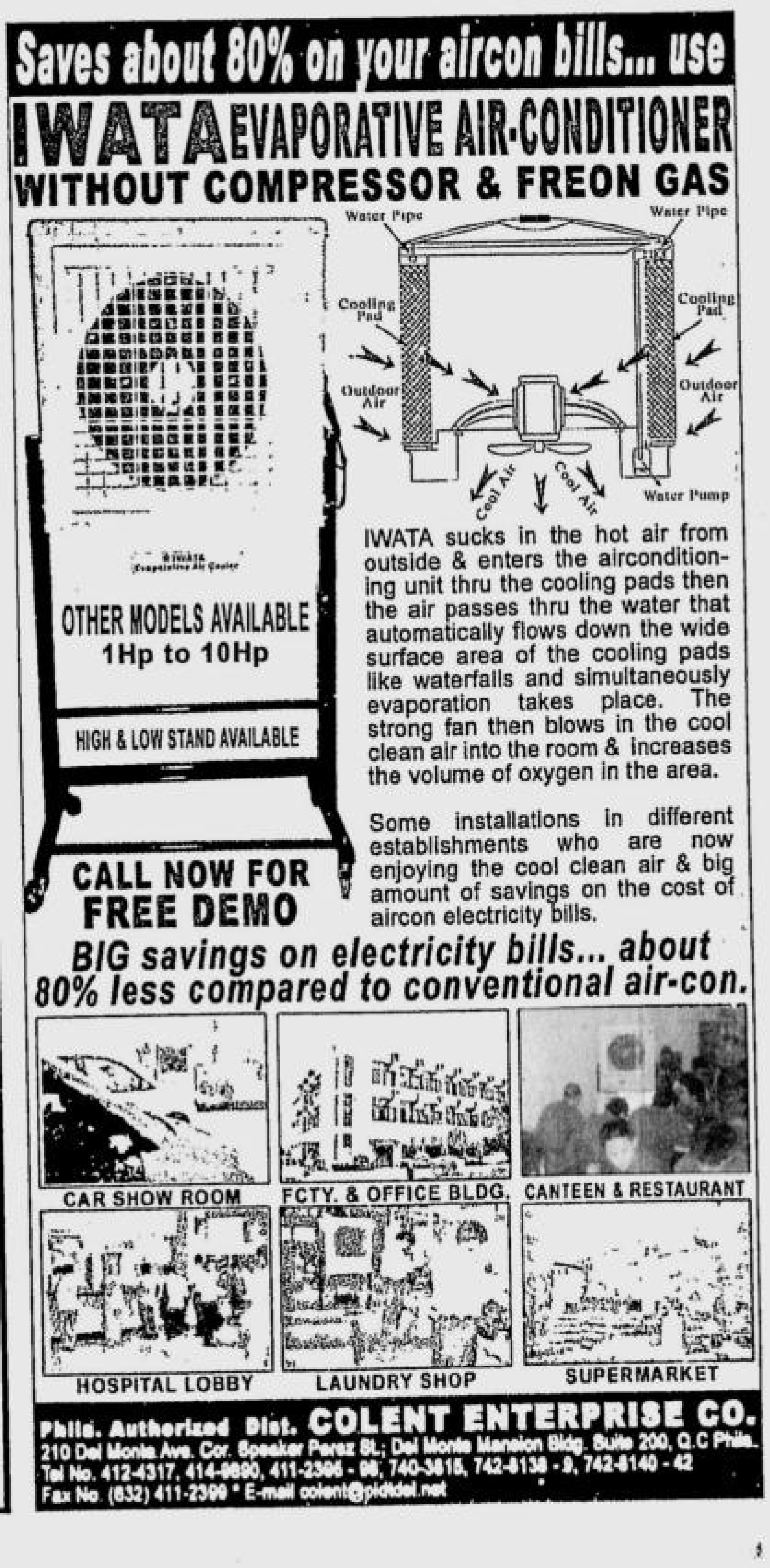
I. Call to Order
II. Certification of Notice and Quorum
III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on July 19, 2005
IV. Presentation of Annual Report
V. Approval and Ratification of Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, the duly Constituted Committees and Corporate Officers
VI. Election of the Board of Directors
VII. Appointment of External Auditor
VIII. Other Business
IX. Adjournment

The record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said meeting is fixed at the close of business hours on March 1, 2006.

The last day for presenting (unsolicited) proxies to the Corporate Secretary for validation shall be on May 13, 2006 and the forum for the validation of proxies shall be convened on May 16, 2006.

Please bring any form of identification in order to facilitate registration.

(sgd) ATTY. LUIS MA. G. URANZA
Corporate Secretary



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TOP Outsourcing Performance Inc. president Maria Bryce Fabro (left), VP Venice Marie Velasco (2nd from right) and disabled rights advocate Tina Llanes-Mabalot (right) flank the two workers.

VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Sunday BIZ

Outsourcing ventures provide light to blind

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE BLIND HAVE seen the light, thanks to the outsourcing trend.

A city-based medical transcription firm hired this week a visually impaired teacher and a blind social worker, both trained locally to digitally transcribe medical information and documents.

The outsourcing industry is also tapping blind people to handle call center chores, which reportedly suit the temperament of many of the visually challenged.

Even players in the musical digital interface trade want Filipino blind musicians to produce music, to be sold as ring tones, to cellular telephone subscribers.

According to blind activist Tina Llanes-Mabalot, the outsourcing industry has realized the potential work force in the country's physically disabled population.

Now it's time for the blind to take up the challenge, says Mabalot, who advocates wider job opportunities for the visually impaired.

Maria Bryce Fabro, president and

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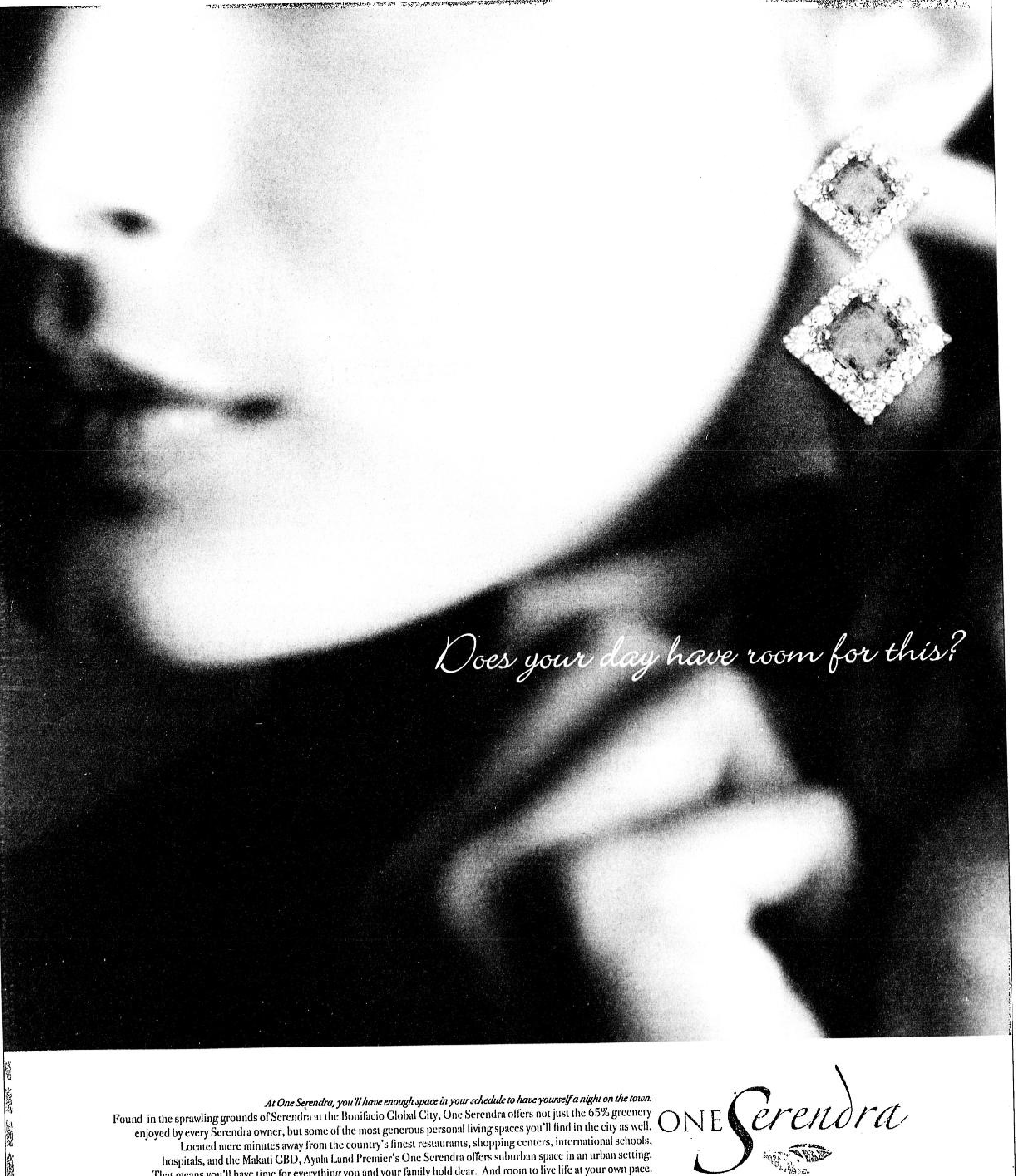

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SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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CLOCKWISE from left: Margarita Fores, Myrna Segismundo, Jessie Sincioco and Glenda Barretto

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

Four chefs serve a smorgasbord of food ideas

PLAYTIME

By the Staff

ON A HOT AFTERNOON, Lifestyle had a most delicious chat with four of the most formidable women in the Philippine culinary scene—Glenda Barretto, Margarita Fores, Myrna Segismundo and Jessie Sincioco.

The subject was Kulinarya, an ambitious project bent on standardizing Filipino dishes in terms of preparation, presentation and taste. This is in line with the Department of Tourism's big dream of putting Filipino cuisine on the world map, much like what the Chinese, the Japanese, the Thai and, of late, the Vietnamese have done.

Not surprisingly, the chefs arrived with snacks for the occasion. Barretto brought Ginataang Bilo-Bilo. Fores came bearing Carabao's Milk Panna Cotta with Sago, Bangus Mousse with slices of bread from Café Bola, and Leche Flan. Sincioco offered a box of Princess Carmen and her famous Ciabatta breads. And Segismundo showed up with Turon, Baked Brie and Fruit in Fillo Purses and to-die-for Quezo de Bola Cheesecake. All this, despite having to face a "grilling" by the Lifestyle staff.

Barretto is vice president and chief operating executive of Via Mare Corp. Fores runs Cibo, Pepato and Café Bola. Segismundo is managing director of Restaurant 9501 at the ABS-CBN complex. Sincioco is toque behind the Le Soufflé Restaurant and Wine Bar chain with branches in Fort Bonifacio, Rockwell and Citibank's Top of the Citi. Clearly, if any group can whip up a lowly Filipino dish into an international bestseller, this is it. Not to mention the two male chefs involved in the project—Claude Tayag and Conrad Calalang.

A collaborative effort among the Asia Society, the Hotel and Restaurants Association of the Philippines, Anvil Publications, and the Department of Tourism, Kulinarya finally took off the planning board after five years when giant food company San Miguel Purefoods Inc. came into the picture with funding. The Kulinarya group has chosen 40 Filipino dishes to standardize.

What we have to correct, they all agree, is the Filipino attitude of looking down at their own food.

Everyone has been wondering about this—why has Filipino cuisine not reached the same level of popularity as other Asian cuisine, even the Vietnamese?

Margarita Fores (MF): Myrna (Segismundo) said the other day that the reason Filipino cuisine hasn't made its mark is that we ourselves, in the Philippines, don't really look at our cuisine in a good way, parang it's something more pambahay. And, usually, when there are foreign guests, Filipinos are always asking themselves: "Are they going to be impressed or not? Should we do something else?"

You're saying we're not confident about our own food?

MF: Yes, we're not confident. We're also not clear about what it really is.

Is that what Kulinarya will do?

MF: Try to standardize it. So, even in restaurants in the provinces, if they use, say, the standardized recipe that Kulinarya formulates for a classic recipe like adobo, the DOT (Department of Tourism) will identify them as certified Kulinarya practitioner that can do a classic Filipino adobo.

Are you telling us that we have to change the way we cook adobo or tinola at home?

Glenda Barretto (GB): No. Ano lang, like sinigang, it won't be as maasim as we normally like it. Gusto kasi sa atin mas maasim, mas masarap.

Are you also saying that we should use a particular toyo or suka in cooking?

GB: That's a thought. (Laughter)

MF: The challenge here is finding [what is] most readily available if you are cooking Filipino food whether in New York, Italy…

GB: Yes, in the US we use apple cider vinegar.

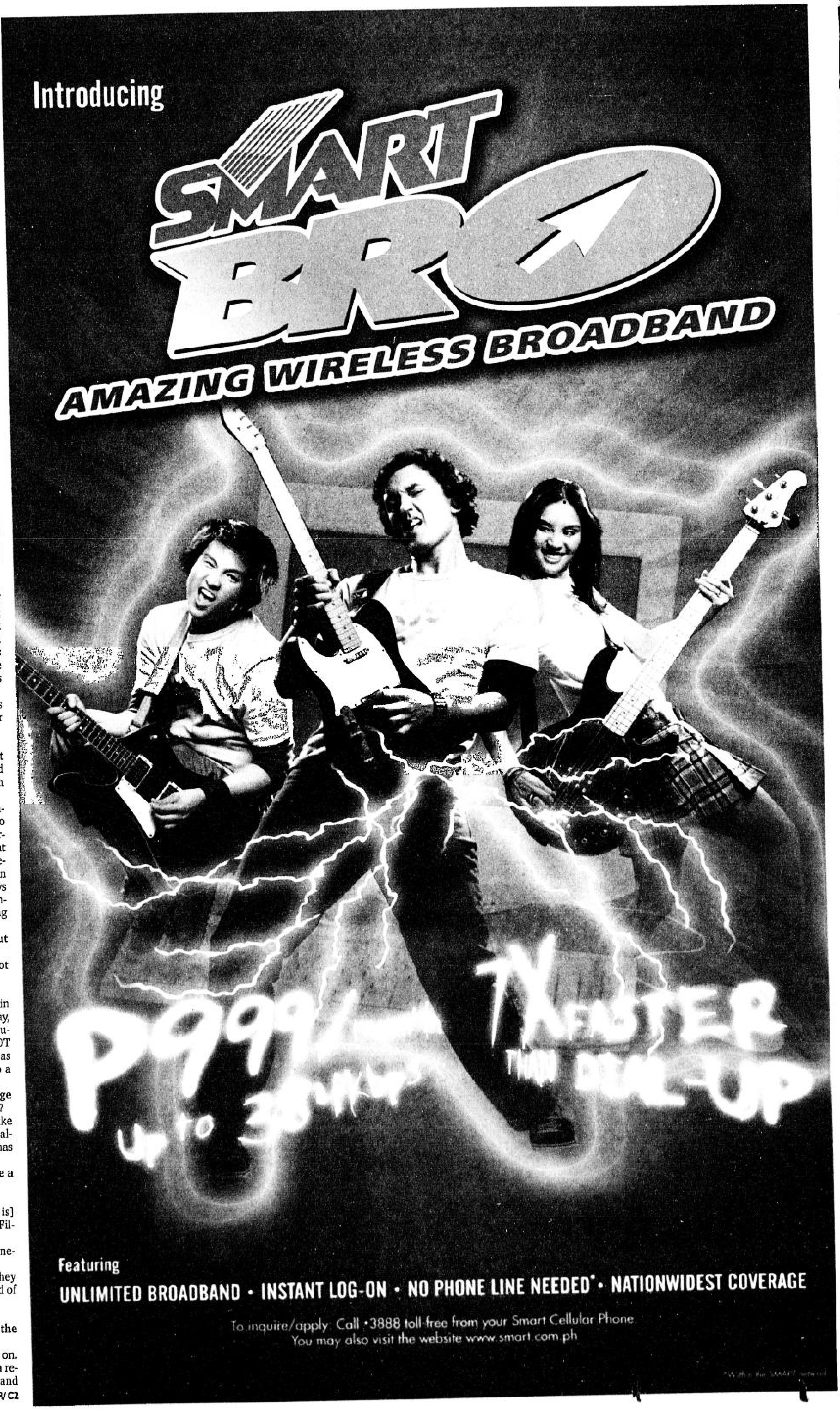
MF: Like the Pinoys in Italy, when they make kare-kare, they use artichokes instead of puso ng saging.

GB: Similar ang texture.

The adobo in Luzon, it's saucy and in the Visayas, it's dry. What will be standard?

MF: That's what we have to decide on. (Laughs) As I was saying, it is going to be a real challenge. We will cook different types and

FOUR/C2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Four chefs serve a smor

'Now we're using a lot of sigarilyas. Just the other day in Pepato, we used patani as siding and it's really like the lima beans'

From page C1

we will decide among ourselves and with critics which we will adopt. That doesn't mean it's the adobo everyone should follow because each family has its own, each cook has his own.

You should also be creative.

MF: Yes, but, at least, there should be one type of adobo that will be known all over.

What other dishes are on the list?

GB: Adobo, sinigang, lumpia, pancit, morcon, kare-kare, pinakbet, kilawin, sisig…

Dinuguan?

GB: No, it has blood eh. Although the French are very adventurous. French and Germans, they like the flavor because medyo sour and very savory. Kasi they also like our tokwa't baboy.

Maybe you should invite foreigners?

Jessie Sincioco (JS): Yes, that's a good idea.

GB: Actually we could ask naman (Norbert) Gandler, sina chef Cyrille (Soenen).

MF: …and they know what their own people will appreciate.

GB: Yung mga kumakain ng bagoong but still know what their country mates have an aversion to. Smell is important and that's the problem with bagoong.

Could you standardize the patis and the bagoong?

GB: You can buy patis puro, its more expensive than the commercial patis. It's like Thai or Vietnamese patis.

JS: Actually our special patis is better than the Thai patis kaya lang they don't sell it commercially, that's the problem, and so what people know about the patis is the pungent one. You really have to check on the commercial aspect, like the patis that they sell, if we want to standardize that, too.

MF: I think what they have for export is already tempered.

JS: To a level.

GB: I buy puro.

MF: Even our bagoong, iba-iba.

What is questionable about the bagoong is its preparation.

GB: Ay, correct! (Laughter) Walang hygienically prepared bagoong. (Laughter) I'm telling you because I process bagoong. Anong nakikita ko sa bagoong? Yung mga ano… (points to one of her fingers) plaster.

MF: Band-Aid?

GB: Band-Aid. That's why we wash our bagoong. It's too salty anyway. We wash it in boiling water to lessen the saltiness and then we simmer for at least one hour. And I just make gisa in garlic, olive oil.

MF: Even the guinamos from Bacolod, when it's raw from the garapon…

GB: Mabango no? (Laughter)

MF: Even just the smell of adobo… It's really the smell of the Filipino household. (Laughter)

Are there desserts and pastries on the list?

JS: Margarita is taking care of the leche flan and the canonigo.

MF: Kasi nga we want Spanish influence and that also makes the dessert list in the Philippines so wide. Yes, we have the gata from our Malay influence.

If you go to Spain, can you order canonigo?

MF: That I don't know. I guess, Tita, they have that, no?

GB: Yeah, they have.

JS: But they do it in milk.

MF: And custard.

JS: We have guinumis, cassava cake, leche flan, canonigo, halo-halo, banana-langka-mangga turon, maja blanca, buko-pandan gelatin… Sapin-sapin I'll do, guinataang halo-halo, sago't gulaman.

So considered dessert ang sago't gulaman? 'Di ba beverage?

GB: Beverage, oo.

MF: Even the pancit—there are three or four.

Dapat standardized yung palabok, luglog or whatever. Iba-iba eh.

MF: Even sinangag, it's there on the list. It's mine.

But isn't the traditional sinangag made only of rice and garlic?

MF: Yes.

JS: Pero yung iba nilalagyan ng kung anu-ano.

MF: Yung sa Negros, yung balat ng bawang sinasama in Bacolod. Kasi siguro they're too lazy.

JS: In Bulacan also, if you do sinangag, you just leave the garlic peel in.

GB: Sa amin naman, we add the salt in the rice and mash the salt with the rice before frying. Para timpla na t'saka walang lumps. So malasa.

MF: And I guess, generally, [for] the sinangag, we really have to use the old rice.

What about lechon?

GB: Actually we can include lechon cooked in a convection oven because I do lechon de leche.

Where are you doing your food tastings?

GB: San Miguel.

MF: Our recipe 'di ba, Tita? Even if you follow the recipe, what's more important is the timing eh.

GB: Yun ang importante, the timing, the temperature, especially in stewing, braising. Ang hilig-hilig ng mga Pinoy sa…

MF: …high ang apoy!

GB: You know what it does to the food? It toughens meat, the meat shrinks and nagda-dry.

MF: At saka ang daming gas na ginagamit. It's a cultural thing and you really have to teach them. Nape-petrify yung food (demonstrates shock). (Laughs)

JS: At a launch in San Miguel, one foreigner asked why Filipinos always overcook their seafood. Like prawns, you cook it so long, it becomes rubbery.

MF: It has a lot to do with high temperature.

Like corn, I didn't know that the longer you cook it, the harder it gets! (Laughter) Nagiging ano na…

MF: Cornick! (Laughter)

Yung mga Chinese they just stir fry.

MF: That's also the Italian way, they never brown their garlic. They just warm it, eh tayo 'di ba sunog?

GB: Mapait na. (Laughs)

MF: Do you think the Spaniards cook garlic that way?

GB: No, I don't think so. Tayo lang careless mangopya.

MF: In our gisa naman we abuse the vegetables.

How much, would you say, of our food would be of Asian influence? Malaysian, Thai, Indonesian?

GB: A lot of our desserts are Malay in influence.

JS: Yung sapin-sapin na yan, very Malay.

GB: Mas ano pa nga sila, they have the kuih lapis.

MF: D'yan natin nakuha iba-ibang kulay.

GB: Meron din silang rice na di kasing pino ng kuih lapis pero mas madaming layers, mas maganda.

JS: At saka yong colors nila, parang pastel colors.

GB: It's more Malay, yong mga gata-gata natin. Yong mga Malay, they also have their adobo. Ang similar talaga is Indonesia.

What about the main dishes?

MF: The ones with tomato sauce siguro.

GB: Actually ang more Spanish natin are the fiesta dishes, yong mga morcon, pochero. Di ba 'pag Sunday…

MF: … Even adobo, 'di ba, Tita, yung mga pochero, cocido pang-family get-together.

GB: Oo, pang-Sunday yan.

MF: And then the Chinese.

GB: Yung mga pancit, lumpia, noodles

Fried dishes?

MF: Sinangag is Indonesian…

GB: Chinese and Malay

Meron bang counterpart ang kare-kare?

MF: I guess yong mga peanut sauces ng Indonesian. But the funny thing is, as Claude says, to make kare-kare, we have to use imported peanut butter, not local. (Laughter) Isn't that a disgrace?

Roasted peanuts 'di ba?

GB: Roasted peanuts but the small ones kasi mas malasa yon.

Yong galing sa Mindanao? Eh yong malalaki?

GB: Walang lasa yon. Use the small ones. You roast them with the skin on. At saka babalatan. Ay, ang sarap!

But in a bind you can use peanut butter.

GB: 'Wag lang yong Lily's natin, matamis. (Laughter) But you know, some Americans like our Lily's peanut butter. Kung anong kinagisnan nilang lasa. Would you believe, in Scandinavian countries or anywhere in Europe, ang sarap-sarap ng mga butter nila 'no? Pero makikita mo sa Filipino stores—Star! (Laughter)

What is your favorite Filipino food? Main dish.

GB: Adobo, sinigang.

JS: Halabos na talangka, sinampalukang manok.

MF: Taba ng talangka, paksiw na fish, Ilonggo-style.

Myrna Segismundo (MS): Adobo, paksiw and guinataang hipon.

JS: Have you tried the sinampalukang manok, native chicken, and ang ipapang-asim mo yung usbong? Ang bango. Yun lang, yung green. Piling-pili yun, yun ang pinang-aasim.

MF: That's Bulacan-style?

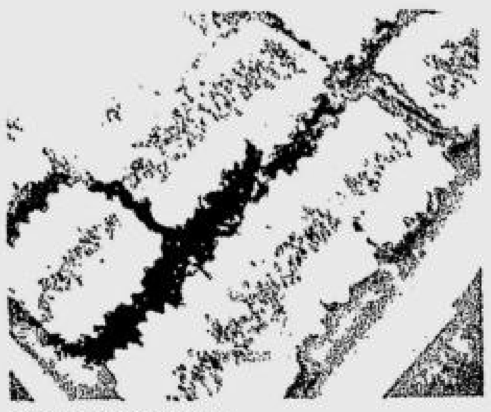
JS: Yes.

Pero may sawsawan 'di ba yong sinampalukang manok?

JS: Normally timplado na yon but, if you want, you can dip it in calamansi and patis.

MS: Every dish has its own sawsawan.

GINATAANG Bilo-Bilo



PRINCESS Carmen

BANANA Turon

BANGUS Mousse with bread

Yong suka, patis, calamansi, toyo. Ang daming variations for certain dishes: calamansi-patis, yung iba calamansi-asin lang, suka or calamansi, suka and bagoong, or toyo and calamansi, toyo and suka. Depende sa klase ng pagkain yan.

So yung Kulinarya, aayusin lahat yan pati sawsawan? So pati sawsawan standardized na?

MS: I think we will have a section on sawsawan because it's very unique, in a way, to Asia, particularly the Philippines. For example, in Israel, there is no concept of sawsawan. There is no word for it. So when we did the Filipino food festival there, they were asking what all those little sauces were because they had no sawsawan there. So, kumbaga, it's so alien to them. So if we're going to go international…

We can make the sawsawan the focus…

MF: That's what Annie Besa wrote in the book… there was adobo on one page and then the next page was the sawsawan.

MS: For example, we refuse to have a concept of dressing di ba. Sa atin wala tayong dressing. Micky (Fenix) and I were saying, dressing lang natin, suka, paminta, asukal. Di ba that's our vinaigrette already? In a way, siguro because we were not introduced to the concept of dressing, ang sawsawan natin is something we can equate with it…

JS: No meal is complete without the sawsawan. That's why there's always patis. Talagang I think every household in the Philippines would have a container for patis.

GB: It's not even present in the Visayas. They call it toyo.

MF: Toyo! And they use the word toyo for patis!

GB: Kasi yung pinatisan is cooked with toyo.

MF: What they call toyo there is patis. In Bacolod it's baligtad.

MS: Rufina ata yung tawag… (laughter) If you want patis, you ask for Rufina. If you ask for patis, you'll get toyo.

MF: That's in Bacolod.

GB: Yeah, baligtad sila.

JS: Kulinarya should have a chapter just on sawsawan. (Laughter)

MS: While we were talking about it, we were saying padagdag na nang padagdag ang chapters kasi nagtatanong yung ibang reporters. Even the origins of the cuisine so that people will have an understanding…

JS: I think the origin is one of the more important features.

Okay, what's your favorite Filipino dessert?

MF: Minatamis na saba. Hands down.

GB: Turon ni Myrna! (laughter)

JS: Ay ako sapin-sapin. The best.

MS: Ako, bibingka ni Tita Glenda (laughter). Yung bibingka na talagang galapong.

JS: Turon saging. I like banana also with crushed ice and evap…

MS: Halo-halo… And, I don't know… We're the only country that eats bananas with our meals. I eat adobo with banana. Or mango with adobo and rice. Yung pang-alis ng suya? In Max di ba before…?

JS: …Fried banana.

MS: …Spring chicken, buttered rolls and bananas for dessert.

MF: Ako naman, my dad, every meal the dessert has to be beside his dinner and he has to take a bite of it.

MS: My dad, too! And he ends it with coco jam sometimes.

MF: And, if we don't have any dessert in the house, he'll just open the nata de coco and put it in a bowl.

MS: Ganon, kami din.

What particular Filipino dish won't you eat?

MF: Siguro papaitan.

GB: Ang di ko ma-take yung ano, sa…

JS: Crickets?

GB: O yon.

JS: Sarap yun, adobong salagubang? I eat anything and everything. (laughter) Like the itlog ng bayawak? It's the most delicious thing.

How about you, Myrna, what won't you eat?

MS: Anything that has to be called a "creature." Yan, mga itlog ng ants? Hantik di ba? In Ilocos they cook that.

JS: Ang sarap nun! (laughter)

MS: O di ba pag kinagat ka, kagatin mo rin! (laughter)

Anything na may insekto kinakain mo rin? Palaka kumakain ka?

JS: Ang sarap ng palaka!

MS: Oo, kinakain nila yun… Ah at yung… okay, nasa driftwood. They've got these worms you kind of wash it in saltwater lang daw and you eat it alive. Umm! That's in the "Culinary Culture of the Philippines," yung kay Gilda Cordero?

But you don't eat that?

MS: No, I don't think so. (laughs)

So hindi totoong acquired taste ang Filipino food?

MS: Hindi. I don't know… they try it out right away. Every guest we serve in the restaurant, every foreigner I serve, because in corporate dining we have a lot of foreign clients and expats, we always make it a point to serve Filipino food. It has never been a problem. In fact, each time, they say how pleasantly surprised they are about Filipino food because, in a way, we cook it correctly. Yung sad experiences nila yung mga carinderia na nadadalahan sa kanila.

Mahirap kasi mga foreigners dadalhin ng girlfriend nila sa…

MS: Eh yung girlfriend pa eh ano… (laughter)

Ano yung girlfriend?

MS: Alin? (Laughter) Ayoko nga. You're going to quote me…

Starts with P? (Laughter)

MS: Pretty! (Laughter)

Maraming mga Pinoy na pag foreigner ang bisita parang ayaw siyang dalhin sa Filipino restaurant. They're so worried na baka hindi magustuhan…

GB: Yun nga yung sinasabi natin. Parang minamaliit natin ang sarili nating lutuin.

MS: We're the first to put ourselves down.

MF: And parang it's a result of our colonial mentality.

How do you think will the Kulinarya project help?

MS: Well, if it's used, it will definitely set the benchmark for how Filipino food should be projected and how Filipino food, at least 40 dishes, will be identified, di ba? Like with Japanese and Thai and other cuisine, there are certain dishes that we immediately identify like sushi, sashimi, tempura…

JS: Sukiyaki…

MS: With Thai it's Tom Yam, Phad Thai, sticky rice and mangoes, Pandan Chicken, that sort of thing. So, with the Philippines, …hopefully they will know the standard adobo they can expect each time. So that's the thrust of the project. Nothing new, really. Just correcting.

What is the role of the Asia Society?

MF: It was actually Doris Ho who really felt that an effort like this was very necessary.

GB: It has been like five years since Doris thought about this. But at least ngayon meron nang financing.

And the role of San Miguel is financing?

GB: Yes.

How do you handle complaints about the greasiness of Filipino food?

MS: Well like, for example, our habit of cooking adobo with lots of fat and the choice of cut we use, liempo, nandiyan lahat ng taba pag natunaw yan. Did you know kokonti lang sa atin know what cuts to use? The only difference they know is buto, laman. They don't know which cuts to use for certain dishes. Stewing cuts, choice cuts, prime cuts, walang masyadong may alam niyan. Hopefully we will address this also. And then, for example, vegetables. We like to overcook our vegetables. That's something you correct in a dish like pinakbet, for example. We'll correct the saltiness siguro, as well as the doneness of the vegetables being al dente instead of labsak.

So all the regions are represented in Kulinarya?

MS: Yes.

Kasi baka may magtampo.

MS: Cebu magtatampo sigurado. Like their sinigang, yung tinatawag nilang tinola, it's actually their sinigang. It's really bland by the Tagalog standards because they just use tomatoes for souring. Ayaw nila ng maasim.

GB: Tomatoes lang at saka spring onions.

How about the south? How about Mindanao?

JS: Ano bang mga food nila? Yung mga Spanish-inspired…

GB: Mindanao is spicy, cooked with coconut milk, yellow ginger, mga ganun. Malapit sa Indonesian.

MS: Then again, I guess we're not really going by region in a way. We're really going by the most popular dishes that we want to work with.

Hands down, what's the most popular?

GB and JS: Adobo.

MS: Adobo pa rin.

You don't think lumpia?

GB: The survey said lumpia.

JS: Talaga?

GB: Kaya lang available ito sa mga supermarkets… lahat ng klaseng lumpia. Shanghai, gulay, ubod…

Di ba when you tell them you come to my party, ay I'm busy? I'm serving lumpia, ay go! Lumpia and pancit. (Laughter)

MF: When we were in New York with my mom, that was the way that we would get into Studio 54. We would bring pancit and lumpia for the doormen. (Laughter) Nakabalot sa foil…

And then if you say you're going to serve lumpia and pancit, your American guests will bring pa their relatives. (laughter)

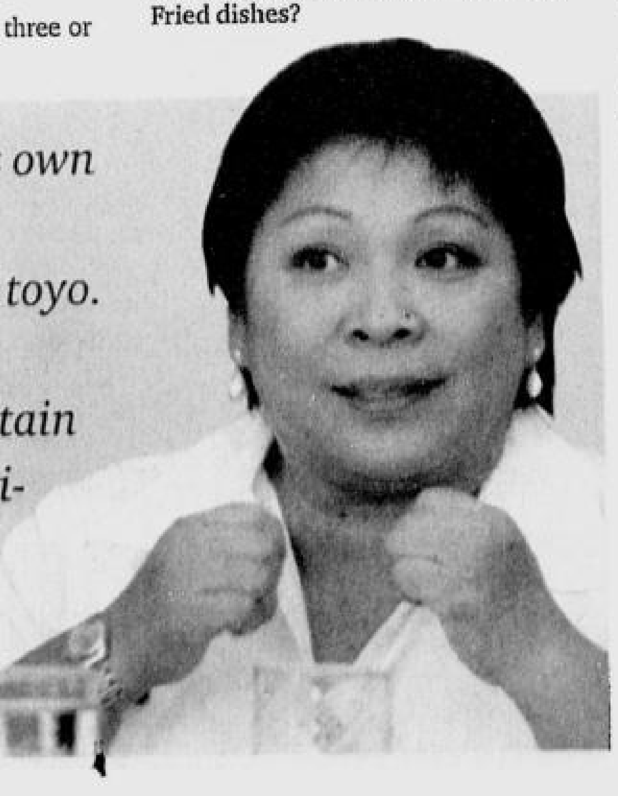
MF: It's also not as unpleasant to cook lumpia abroad as compared with say, adobo. So the Filipinos will cook lumpia and pancit more than adobo…

MS: My sisters have learned to work with adobo in the States. Instead of stewing, they try the oven. That's something you might want to consider. Kasi it can really be a braised dish. It's actually wrong to say stewed adobo because it's really a braised dish.

So how do you improve the look of adobo?

MS: You don't need to. The other night I was at Spices for a Thai food festival preview, their food was all brown! (laughter)

So it's not a valid complaint that our food is all brown?



'Every dish has its own sawsawan. Suka, patis, calamansi, toyo. Ang daming variations for certain dishes: calamansi-patis, suka-bagoong, toyo-calamansi…'

'At the launch in San Miguel, one foreigner asked why Filipinos always overcook their seafood. Like prawns, you cook it so long, it becomes rubbery'

gasbord of food ideas

MS: No, no… What we should complain about is the fact that we put too much soy sauce, which we shouldn't because soy sauce actually hardens meat, di ba, Tita Glen?

GB: Yes… At saka hindi mo na nalalasahan yung niluluto mo dahil overwhelmed siya ng soy sauce.

What about atsuete?

MS: I'm from Batangas, we have atsuete in adobo, in fact, sometimes without soy sauce.

No, the fresh ones?

MS: Fresh? Atsuete? Yung seeds? (laughter) Oh, I've not tried that. Di ba dina-dry muna yung atsuete?

We usually use, when it's available, the newly harvested ones. Masarap ang flavor, more aromatic flavor.

JS: Okay yun ano?

MS: Ah, wow… really…

GB: Ay magpakuha tayo ng atsuete.

JS: Oo, may fresh pala.

What's your favorite fish and how do you prepare it?

GB: Fish? I love sea bass. Apahap.

How do you cook it?

GB: Steamed or yung fried na yung malutong na malutong, with just garlic and soy sauce.

MS: Actually, di ba... when you're asked what your favorite food is, ang hirap isipin?

GB: Oo, kasi ang dami…

MS: I guess it's different on our part kasi maraming nagagawa. So there's not one…

No, food to eat, to eat…

MS: Ako actually, kung tatanungin nyo, wala, kasi ang dami.

GB: Ako galunggong! Sarap ng galunggong.

Sapsap?

MS: Ay oo… Ako tawilis...

JS: Ako tilapia…

MF: Yung galing sa ilog, yung flatfish…

GB: Ah malinamnam.

MF: They call it kikiro….

MS: Kikiro is kitang.

MF: I didn't know kitang was kikiro.

MS: You know what? Depende sa freshness ng fish. Something as simple as tilapia, basta sariwa, ang sarap-sarap kainin…

JS: Ginataan na tilapia, very nice.

What do you do with sapsap?

JS: Fried lang.

GB: Tinola lang. You just boil plenty of tomatoes and scallions…

MS: Pag seafood, the less you do the better.

GB: And then paglagay mo ng sapsap… aww! Perfect…

And then hot rice... Freshly cooked rice…

GB: With sawsawan. Pag umuwi ako ng summer, ayan na, naka-lineup na yan... (laughter). Yun, gusto ko rin yun, yung kikiro…

MS: Kikiro, kitang…

Iba pala yung sapsap sa kitang. Pinapaksiw din?

MS: Oo.

Kitang is piniprito?

MF: Kitang, di ba they make it kulo with dahon and they put later the onion. But in Capiz, the kikiro they just make it ihaw. Capiz mostly they just make ihaw.

MS: Dapat yung nagsasalubong yung alat and tabang. Like ang Taal, yong brackish water. Masarap ang fish diyan sa brackish water. Like maliputo… I think salmon is like that, they go from salt to fresh di ba?

MF: That's why in Capiz, seafood is talagang masarap. Kasi the water is brackish.

Do we have a lot of seafood on the menu that you're going to standardize? Shouldn't seafood be one of our major selling points? Don't the foreigners always look for seafood when they come here?

MS: Yeah. Oo.

MF: Actually, showing the uniqueness of the Philippines… for example, like Mindanao has the coconut crab…

MS: Siguro part 2 na yan.

JS: The more popular Filipino dishes are meat…

But I think the foreigners, when they come and eat here, they order seafood.

MS: Yeah.

They will eat the lumpia and the adobo when they're in a Filipino home but in a restaurant they'll order seafood.

MS: But you know it's a good point nga talaga.

Kulinarya will set the benchmark for how Filipino food should be projected

JS: Maybe that will be another book, just on seafood.

What are the Filipino appetizers?

GB: Yun ang wala.

MF: Adobong mani, chicharon… (laughs)

GB: Ang hirap mag-isip ng appetizer na Pinoy.

MS: When we were doing the cookbook, we had a difficult time deciding how we would divide the chapters. Because Filipino food is not really broken down into appetizer, soup, main course, dessert. It should really be more pork, beef, seafood, chicken, vegetables.

But if we're going to hit the international market, shouldn't we do that? Didn't the Thais do that?

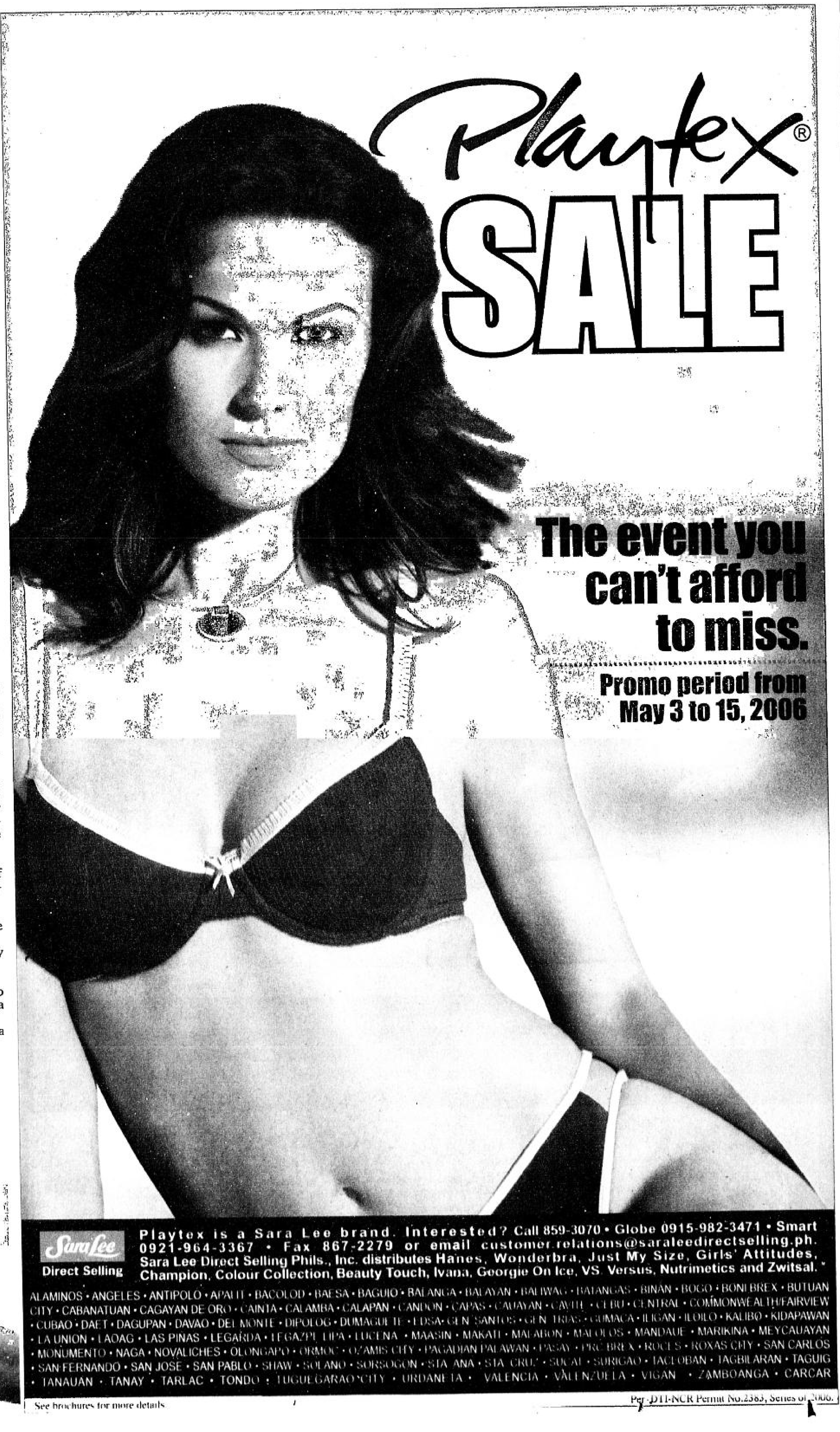
And then there's salad din? Tayo walang salad eh.

JS: Manggang hilaw and itlog na maalat. Yun ang salad natin.

FOUR/ C4

If you were to cook just one dish for a foreigner to convince him that Filipino food is good, what would it be?

'I don't think I can serve only one dish…'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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.2383, Series of 2006.

Four chefs serve a smorgasbord of food ideas

From page C2

Are you going to come up with a menu for restaurants?

MS: Actually this menu is more commercial than it is domestic. But it can be really more for commercial use. I think we should start with the restaurants.

I imagine that's what the Department of Tourism will do.

MS: Yes. In fact they said they were going to open a café in Tokyo.

They have one slated for Moscow.

JS: And one of the objectives of the book is to make the Philippines a culinary destination.

MS: They've realized that, you know, a big chunk of tourism is really culinary.

MS: Right. Particularly in the provinces di ba? But you know what? Wala namang problema eh. How many foreigners go to Boracay, to Bohol, to all these places and they love the food? So how is it cooked? Nobody complains about that.

JS: I guess it's also because they have no choice.

MS: And also because they don't know how to eat. (laughter)

But what about hygiene?

MS: I'll tell you one thing: We don't heat our food. To a professional chef, that is germs multiplying by the second. So to a foreigner who understands food, he sees something cold in the carinderia, ang tingin na niya agad sa pagkain na yon, madumi na yan. SARS na, bird flu na ang tingin nila sa mga iyon. Sa atin, okay lang. But sanitation and hygiene standards dictate that food has to be hot so germs do not survive. So di natin yun naiintindihan, lalo na sa probinsya.

But we must be doing something right!

MF: Tingnan mo nga, we're the only bird flu-free country, no SARS, no bird flu!

MS: No, because we are the germs! (laughter)

MF: In a nutshell, we are the germs!

In the bagoong for example, can microbes thrive in all that salt?

MS: Yes. In fact, that's why we have to gisa. And they're very strict, they don't let bagoong in in other countries.

MS: We're going to do a week-long Filipino food festival in Shangri-La Mactan this week. And Micky said how strange that we would get invited to do a Filipino food festival in the Philippines. (Laughter) In Cebu. Because the kind of Filipino food they have there is very different from what you have here. Sinigang na lang, for example, malayo. Yung lechon may sawsawan dito, dun wala. Di ba yung mga ganung klase. So we sent our menus for the whole week. The executive chef e-mailed me yesterday and said they had concerns about hygiene and sanitation, about serving kinilaw.

MF: But that's like ceviche!

MS: I know.

But they don't have a problem with sashimi?

MS: I know. Huwag na lang maki-argue... (laughter) Sige na nga, ganon. Pero, just to show you, internationally speaking, they're very concerned. In bartending alone, any drink with eggs, with raw eggs, bawal na yan ngayon sa cocktail mixing because of their salmonella concerns. Maraming na-food poisoning sa Japanese restaurants. Gabby (Lopez) just got food poisoning from eating at a Japanese restaurant that I won't mention here.

> Filipino food is not really broken down into appetizer, soup, main course, dessert

Why not? Off the record.

MS: Naku, imposible! (laughter)—sa INQUIRER pa... (laughter)

Are you excited about this project?

MS: Yes, very much.

MF: Actually, challenging for us.

MS: We waited too long, and like, well, you know, I don't know any other cuisine. Only Filipino. That's what I grew up with. It's very nice to work with it because it's your own.

JS: Actually, this should've been done a long time... most probably, if this was done a long time ago, Philippine cuisine would already have a place in the world map of cooking.

MS: The head of Asia Society was saying yesterday the Filipino chefs were gaining recognition but not Filipino food.

How true. And they're working with other cuisine.

MS: Yeah...

JS: But it's not only this group, the chefs, that should be involved but also the Department of Health. The government should help us.

The schools! They have to teach them... They don't di ba, in the culinary schools?

MS: No, in fact, the only culinary school that offers Filipino cuisine as a subject is...

UP lang?

MS: No. It's CCA (Center for Culinary Arts). When I was speaking to the graduates one time, I said I would like to request that you include Filipino cuisine in your curriculum and they said they were the only school that offered...

Maybe because they think it's something they already know? Pambahay nga ang sabi... Ayun ang problema...

MF: Pero I think what will also make this successful is [for us] to have a unified mindset. We have to agree that maybe we need to compromise in certain areas just to be able to come up with something marketable. We have to sort of decide on being regional also. We have to be clear about the goal.

And I think the project should go with the whole campaign of being proud to be a Filipino. Because if you're not... you'll always be saying, ah I cannot take this to a Filipino resto because it's all brown. Or it doesn't look good.

If you were to cook just one dish for a foreigner to convince him that Filipino food is good, what would it be?

JS: Just one dish? It has to be adobo. Because more or less they're familiar with the taste already. So it's just a matter of presenting it in a nice way that they will really appreciate it and cook it in a way that's not too offending.

MF: Ako lumpiang gulay. Fried. I think people always love fried food. And that's the one thing you'll taste from Filipino...

GB: I don't think I can serve only one dish. (laughter)

MF: Not a good question kay Tita Glenda!

GB: It has to be adobo but adobo that is like garnished with lumpia, with a serving of fried fish...

Smorgasbord!

MF: Di ba we can't eat with just one ulam... That's really the nature of our cuisine.

GB: I agree. At saka sabay-sabay lahat. (Laughter)

MS: We're not one-dish meal people.

JS: Really, food has to be shared.

Nasa pairings nga yan eh. Di ba adobo with... what?

MS: Banana. (laughter)

JS: Kare-kare!

MS: Adobo with sinigang. Adobo and monggo. Paksiw and monggo, rather.

GB: Tumutulo na naman laway ko.

Okay, this is a really important question. In a standard halo-halo, how many ingredients should be there? (Laughter)

GB: Anywhere from 10-12. Sandosenang halo. (Laughter)

When we do festivals abroad, we try to do it from scratch. Kung merong beans, usually the three kinds of beans are available anywhere in the world. But the rest of the ingredients like kaong, saging, nata—yan, mga bottled na yan. But if you use them straight from bottle, they don't taste anything. You still have to cook them. What we do is we cook them again in syrup, and then add flavoring, [like] dayap...

MF: ... Or pandan.

Halo-halo is good only with evap milk.

MF: Can you imagine that you'd go more for canned milk than fresh? Like, when you are in the US and you want to eat strawberries as if you are in Baguio, and you get fresh milk from the grocery—iba! You'd look for Carnation in the can!

GB: But you know, in Japan, we tried to thicken the halo-halo with pureed white beans. It thickened, it made the halo-halo richer, parang Razon's na. (Laughter)

MF: Sarap!

So isasama n'yo yang mga secrets na yan sa standard recipes?

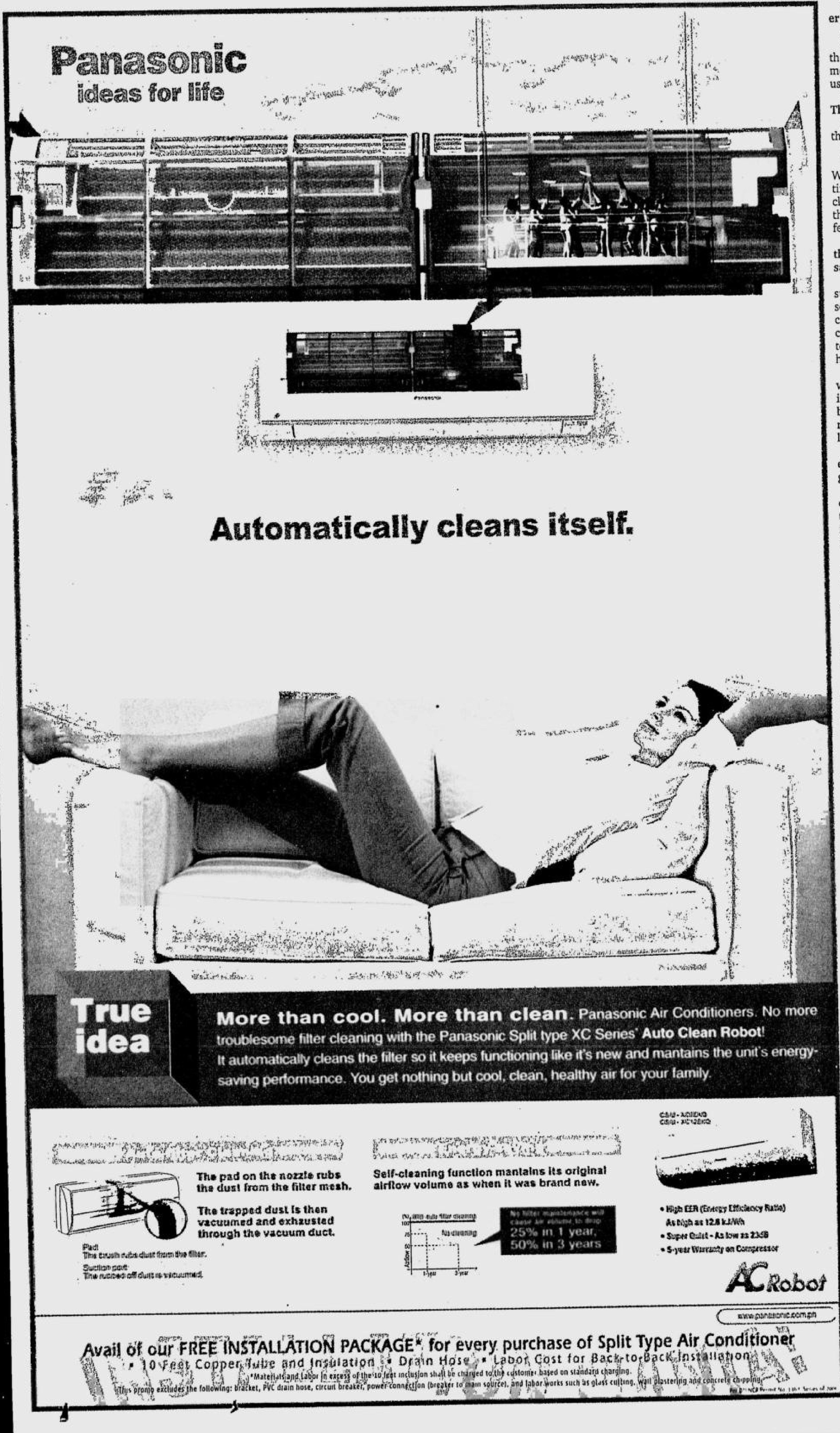
GB: Correct. (Laughter)

MF: Even the proportions. Sinigang mix and using real sampaloc, for example.

GB: Ako 'pag sinigang lemons, spinach.

Pati vegetables iba-iba yung ginagamit sa sinigang. So what you're trying to do is, when a foreigner goes to a Filipino restaurant, in Hong Kong or Madrid or Paris, he will get the same taste.

GB: Exactly. That's the goal. Kasi nagiging unpleasant ang experience kung yung na-try na sinigang ay sobrang asim. ▲



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THE ALCÁZAR

A day in Segovia

This ancient Spanish town boasts of the Alcázar, which guidebooks say was an inspiration to Walt Disney for his fairytale castle in 'Sleeping Beauty'

By Richard C. Signey
Contributor

TO TAKE A BREAK from weeks of homework and quizzes, the gang and I decided to head out of town. Although there are endless choices in Madrid for taking in Spanish culture and history, there is much more to be gained from exploring the countryside.

Since Segovia came highly recommended (the United Nations heralded it as a World Heritage site in 1985), we decided to spend a day there to see what all the fuss was about.

Since I never got to experience traveling by train through the

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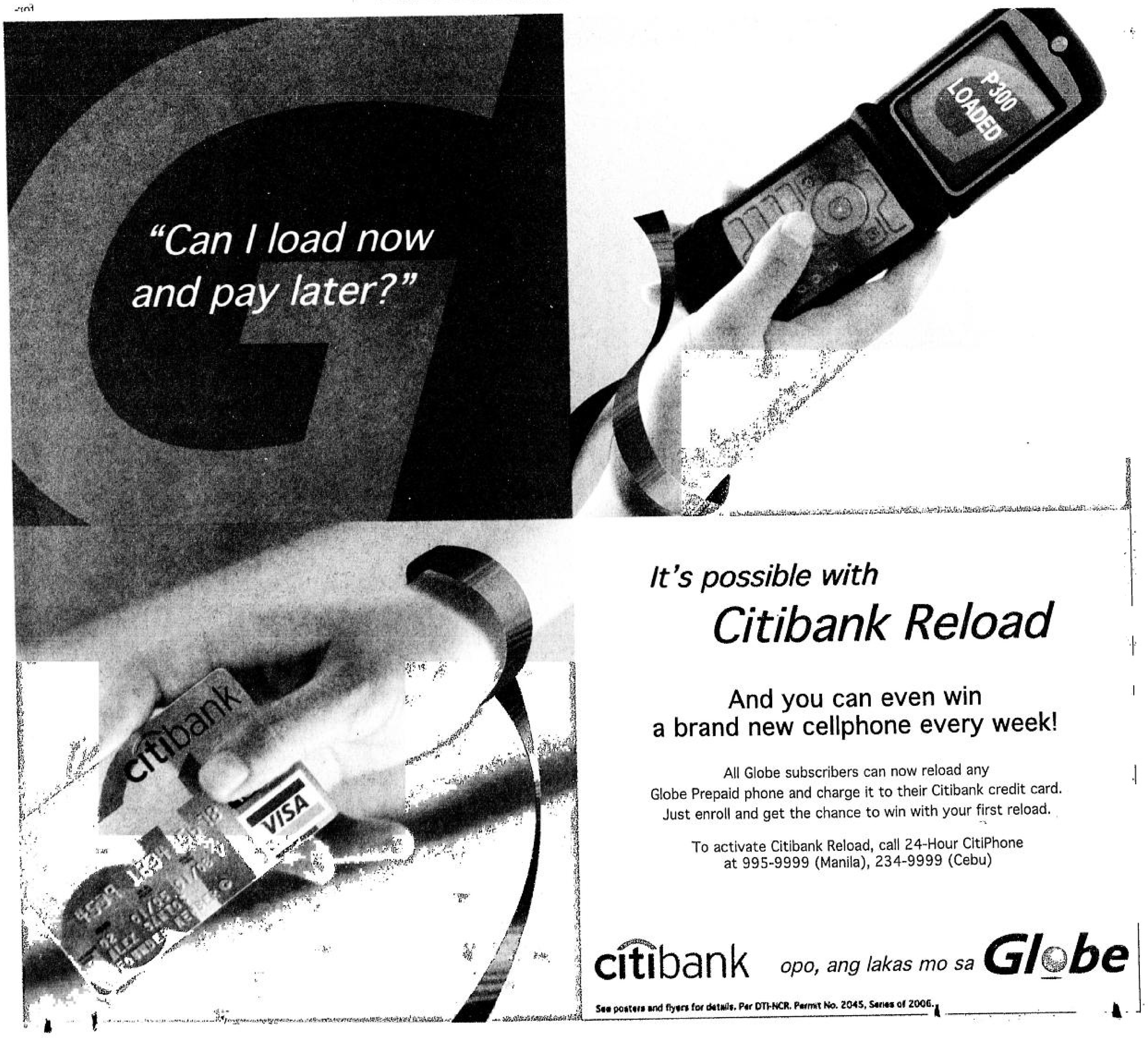

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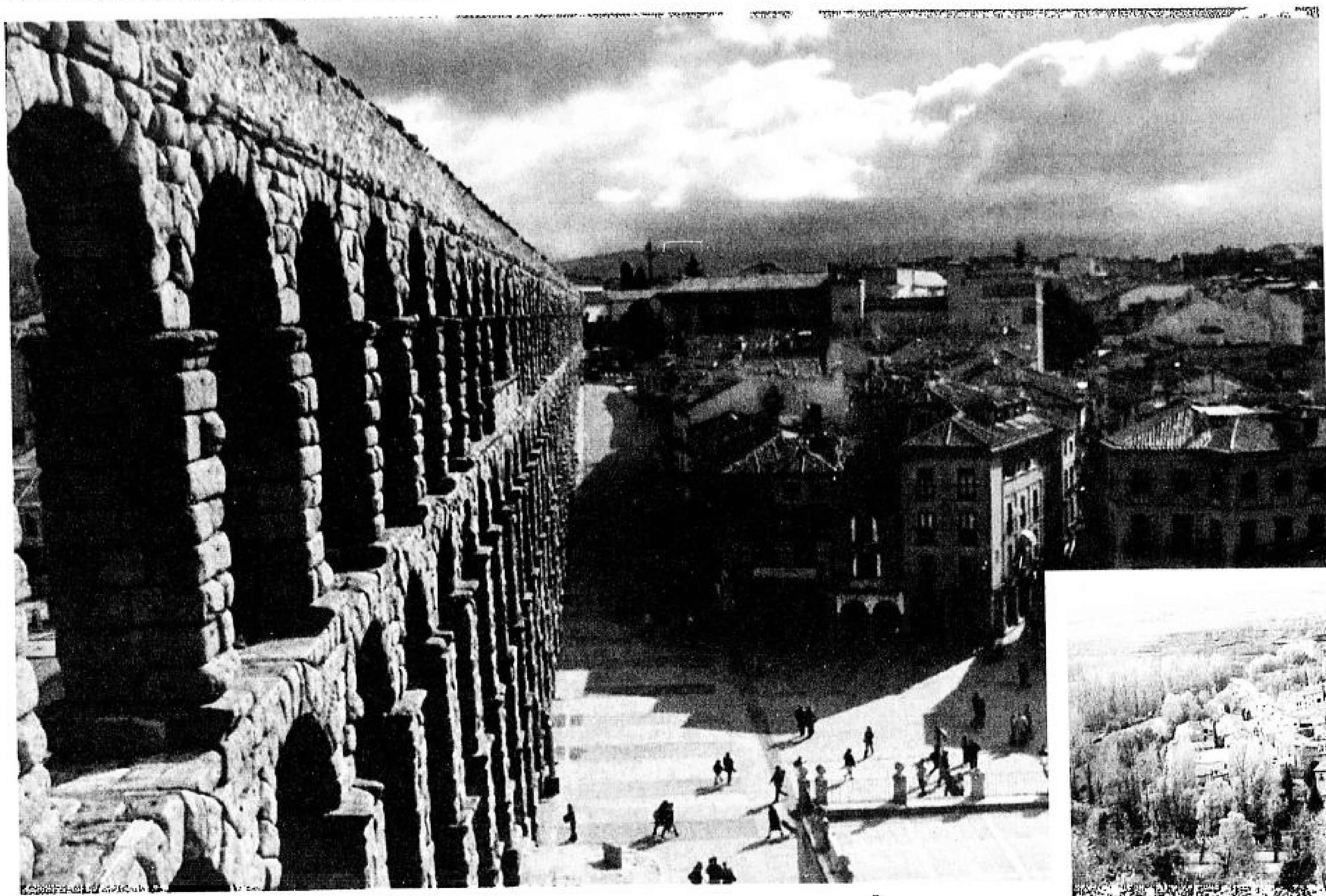


TYPICAL street scene in the old town of Segovia (above); the gigantic Roman Aqueduct (left)

A VIEW from the Alcázar of the surrounding countryside

A day in Segovia

From page D1

Philippine countryside, doing so in Spain was something to relish. Setting off early for the Nuevos Ministerios train station and the two-hour ride to our chosen destination, we found Spanish trains not only efficient, modern, spacious and comfortable, but also relatively very affordable.

The 60-kilometer Madrid-Segovia route, for example costs 5.45 euros (about P350) one-way, a price an ordinary Filipino traveler can still afford. Oddly enough, it's cheaper than paying the 6.90 euros price for a regular movie ticket in the Spanish capital.

Medieval city

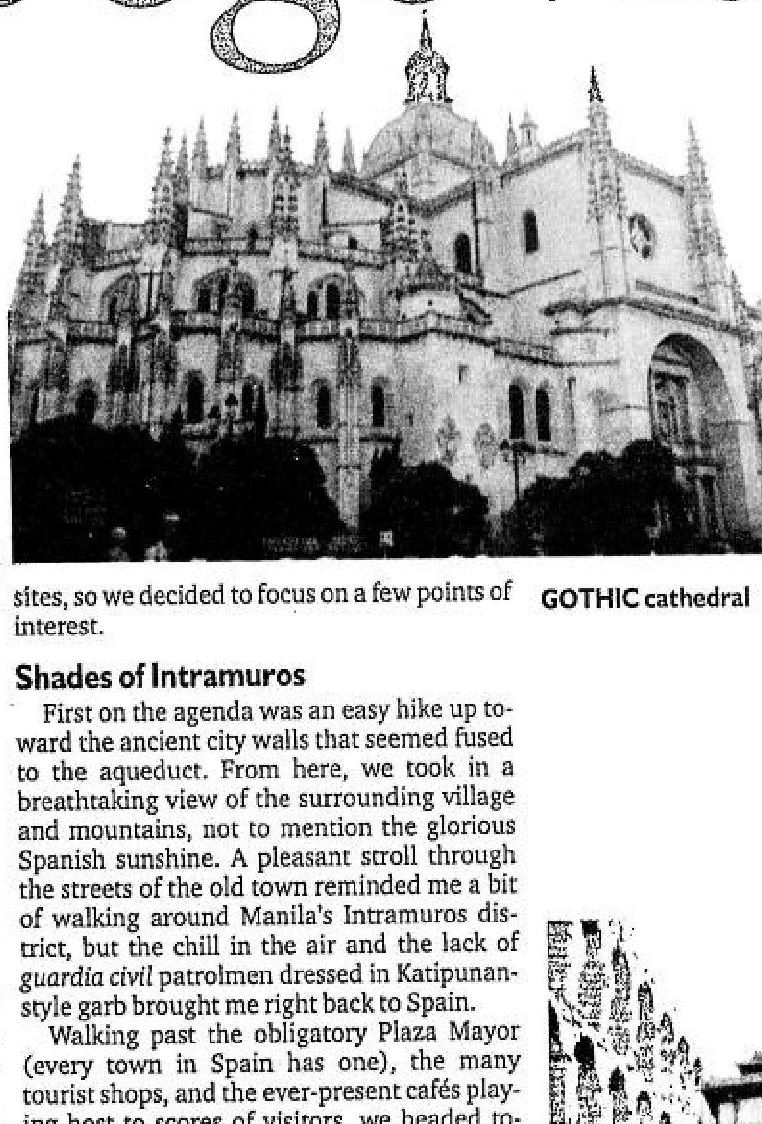
The way to Segovia was through a countryside filled with rocky but verdant hills and mountains and dotted with countless olive trees, the Mediterranean evergreen that makes possible the production of olive oil, a staple of Spain's gastronomic culture.

Approaching our destination, we were greeted by the view of a medieval city in the distance. From the "contemporary" part of town, we decided it was worth the effort to walk all the way to the old city, for a glimpse of a place located in the Spanish region of Castilla y León situated directly on the northwestern border of Madrid.

On reaching the limits of medieval Segovia, what appeared as a faraway series of arches in between buildings loomed larger and larger as we approached. The walk toward the structure led us to the ancient, impressively colossal Roman aqueduct that easily dwarfed the city.

History has it that the Romans built it in the 1st century with nothing to hold the gigantic granite blocks together save for an ingenious architectural technique of hewing stones in a manner that took advantage of gravity. Although its function of supplying the city with fresh water from nearby mountains may no longer exist, it lives on as the monument that distinguishes Segovia the most from Spain's other noteworthy travel sites.

After the usual ritual of the "Pinoy Kodak moment" around the aqueduct, the gang and I decided to head toward the local tourism office to help us get started. A quick look at our maps made us realize that we would need a few days at least to visit all the recommended sites, so we decided to focus on a few points of interest.



GOTHIC cathedral

Shades of Intramuros

First on the agenda was an easy hike up toward the ancient city walls that seemed fused to the aqueduct. From here, we took in a breathtaking view of the surrounding village and mountains, not to mention the glorious Spanish sunshine. A pleasant stroll through the streets of the old town reminded me a bit of walking around Manila's Intramuros district, but the chill in the air and the lack of *guardia civil* patrolmen dressed in Katipunan-style garb brought me right back to Spain.

Walking past the obligatory Plaza Mayor (every town in Spain has one), the many tourist shops, and the ever-present cafés playing host to scores of visitors, we headed toward the Gothic cathedral. Although relatively sparse in terms of artwork compared to other Spanish cathedrals, its marvelously detailed altar, majestic dome, the huge church interior with high vaulted ceilings, and the immense courtyard surrounded by gigantic elaborately carved gothic-style windows were impressive enough to make up for the lack of adornment.

With all the walking about, our stomachs, now accustomed to the very late Spanish lunch period of between 2-4 p.m., gave us little choice but to head to a nearby restaurant. What to eat? Since we were in the region of the renowned *cochinillo*, we decided to go for broke and try it. As we dug through the crispy skin into the very tender flesh, I couldn't help thinking of our very own version: the *lechon de leche*. Accompanied by a serving of the local version of French fries and a few glasses of local red wine, we were sufficiently nourished to be able to continue exploring the town.

Impressive structure

Amused by museums, churches, convents and shops that we passed, we didn't realize how late it was getting. Foregoing the Jewish museum depicting medieval life in Segovia before they were expelled from Spain in 1492 (the same year Cristobal Colon, better known as Christopher Columbus, discovered America), we proceeded to the Alcázar of Segovia, an impressive structure that guidebooks say was an inspiration to Walt Disney for his fairy-tale castle in "Sleeping Beauty."

The long walk from the center of town led us through centuries-old streets winding along ancient walls which protected the city from invasions of long ago. The view of the surrounding countryside was simply inspiring: trees in various shades everywhere, interrupted every now and then by a medieval building or two. The waning daylight bathed the scene with inexplicable glow, a view that could bring fairy tales to life.

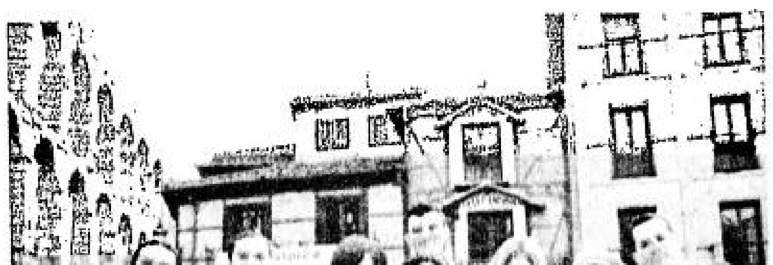
With only minutes left before closing, we learned that visits to the Alcázar were divided into two: the castle itself with its tapestries, portraits, paintings, a collection of medieval armor; and the imposing tower. As we crossed the drawbridge over the moat, some of the group decided to enter the castle while the rest proceeded to the tower.

The climb up the tower was an interesting if physically challenging treat. At the top, we were treated to a view of the distant city center and the immense cathedral on one side, a view of the castle's walls and rooftops on another, and on the remaining sides, a view of the surrounding landscape of nearby towns and open country under the glow of the setting sun.

As we leaned out at the view below, we thought it amazing how people could build a structure so beautiful and solid at such great a height without the aid of modern technology.

And speaking of heights, we quickly realized as we looked down that the moat we passed as we crossed the drawbridge into the castle was actually an abyss where, according to our guidebook, in the 14th century, a nursemaid negligently dropped an heir to the throne into the depths below and, to avoid being punished, quickly flung herself next to the boy. With that knowledge in hand, we were more than extra-careful on the way down the tower. Some things decline over time, but the almost endless drop into the depths of an abyss isn't one of them.

As we rushed back from the Alcázar to the center of the old city and to the train station, we couldn't help but feel disappointed for the lack of time to explore all that Segovia had to offer. But resting on the seats of the train as it took us back to Madrid, we were comforted by the thought that a second trip back was only a two-hour ride away.



THE AUTHOR (second row, extreme left) with schoolmates in Madrid, on a trip to Segovia

The author is a student in Madrid as a scholar of the Spanish government for a year. He takes advantage of his free time by visiting nearby destinations. In Manila, he is an English and Spanish professor, part-time theater actor and host for corporate events.

E-mail the author at rcsigney@hotmail.com

TRAVELBRIEFS

Puerto Galera visit

THE SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD-Philippines (STB-P) area director, Rocson Chang, and assistant manager for tourism business, Liza Gonzales, paid a courtesy call recently on Mayor Aristeo Atienza of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

The visit was part of the Island-to-Island collaborative marketing and promotional campaign of STB-P and Puerto Galera that will run until June 15.

Meanwhile, Puerto Galera registered in 2005 an 82 percent increase in tourist arrivals, 3.1 million from 2004's 1.7 million.

Puerto Galera Bay was named last year one of the most beautiful bays in the world by The Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club, an organization supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco). Puerto Galera is part of Unesco's Man and Biosphere Reserve program.

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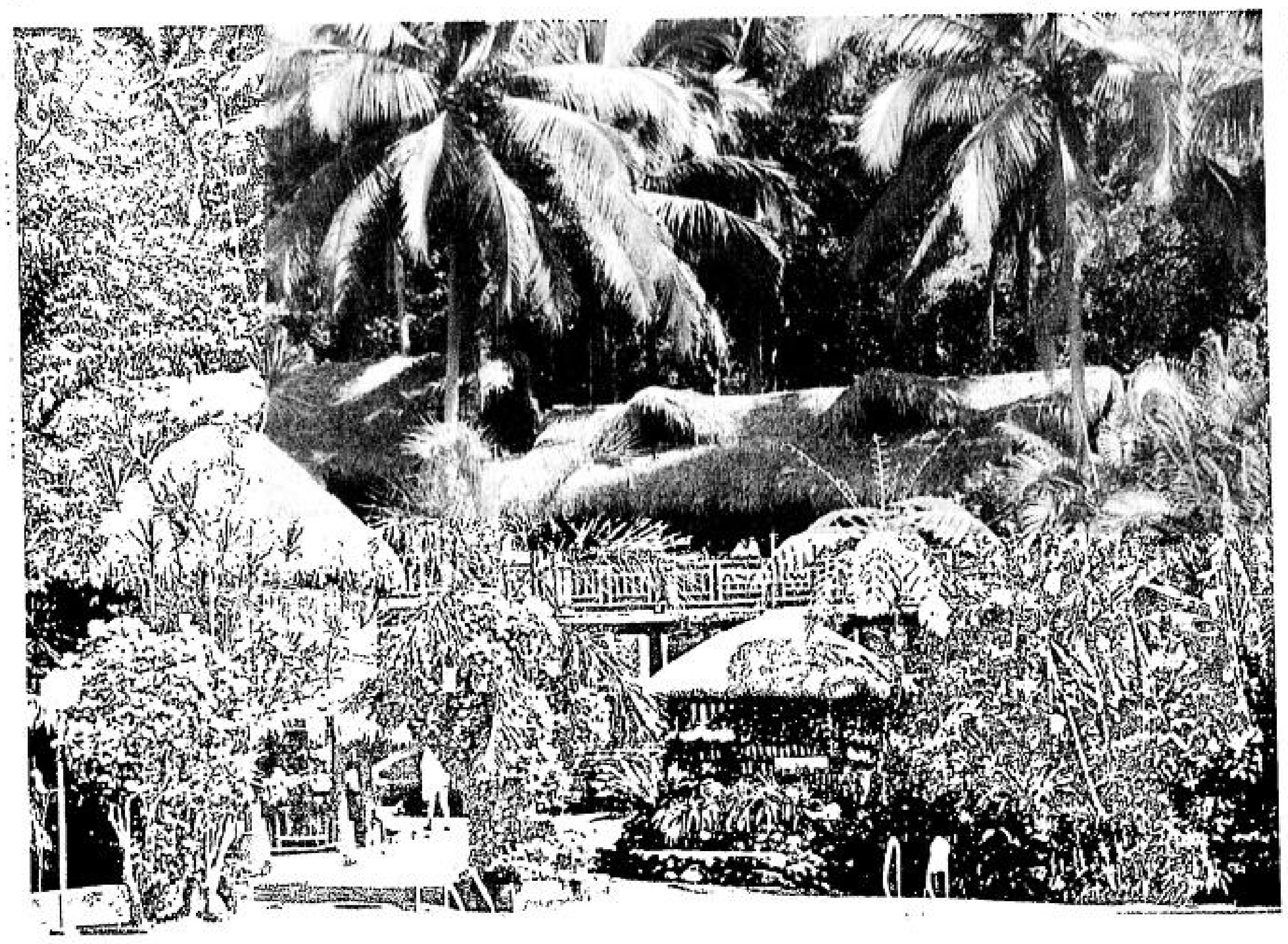
KUALA LUMPUR TOUR

The Universal Holidays Inc. with Malaysian Airlines invited some 16 tours and travel operators for a six days/five nights tour in Kuala Lumpur recently: Cristina Misogas (Universal Holiday Inc.), Bien del Rosario (N. Del Rosario Tours and Transport Services), See Yiu Ying Dionisio (Active Travel), Alicia Dueza (TravelTech Travel and Tours), Menchielyn Lacap (Allways Travel and Tours), Nancy Del Rosario (N. Del Rosario Tours and Transport Services), Joy Tongco (Manila International Travel), Catherine Dumlao (Trip Mart Services), Pete L. Dacuycuy (Dax Travel and Tours), Manuel Serrano (Legend Travel and Tours), Roberto Bungabong Jr., (Sparkle Holidays), Maria Ludivina Bautista (Travelnet), Maria Cristina Cruz (Glandsome Travel Corp.), Julie Lapastora (Adams Express Travel), Jane Cyndee Wong (Consolidate Tours and Travel), Philip Raja (Lamar Travel and Tours).



THE BATIS Aramin Resort brings you as close to nature as you want and yet near enough to the hub of Lucban. It has thatch-roofed huts and lake and ponds fed by a natural spring.

An enchanting and 'enchanted' spot . . .

From page D4

(tel. 042-5407320, 0919-8454864; fax 042-5403641) brings you as close to nature as you want and yet near enough to the hub of Lucban. It is also just across from new Lucban crowd drawers, the Grotto of Healing and Way of Purification and Kamay ni Hesus Healing Church where healing priest Fr. Joseph "Joey" Faller holds regular Sunday afternoon masses.

At the resort, you literally walk and sleep under the watchful eyes of Jesus as the tall image of the Christ at the top of the grotto towers over the surrounding communities.

Owned by husband and wife Filomeno and Teresita Valde, Batis Aramin sits at the foot of the mystical Mount Banahaw. Its two large swimming pools, children's pools, several ponds, a lake for fishing, and two or three small waterfalls are all fed by the spring Aramin (hence the name) from the mountains.

You can go swimming, fishing, camping, boating or simply just relax and enjoy the clean, fresh air; lush vegetation and the quiet with only the sounds of nature to disturb the peace.

Picnic spot

Originally called Piknikan sa Lucban, a picnic spot for local residents, the Valdes decided to have the full-fledged Batis Aramin resort for people who want to commune with nature for more than just a few hours.

They built thatch-roofed huts and a two-story modest hotel. The structures were built on the side nearest the highway, pretty much keeping the old trees and greenery intact.

The results are enchanting and seemingly enchanted misty green corners screened by thick foliage, the tips of gnarled old branches and roots of ancient air plants dipping so delicately into the various pools.

You almost expect to see fairies and nymphs gamboling about as you explore the hidden nooks and crannies connected by wooden bridges and mossy stone paths.

And if you have a craving for some of the delicacies Lucban is famous for, the restaurant at the ground floor of the hotel can offer you the *longganisa* and the *pansit*, among other things.

To get to Lucban and Batis Aramin, you can either take the Batangas or Laguna route. The Batangas route takes you through about five other Quezon towns before you reach Lucban. If you choose to go through Laguna, the Pahiyas town becomes your gateway to Quezon province.

A GIANT Jesus Christ keeps a watchful eye on surrounding communities.

KIDS take turns feeding with carrots fluffy white rabbits.

Family fun at the farm

SUMMER TIME, SUMMER TIME—when all little kids can visit the farm. Well, at least the children of Second Mom Childcare preschool. Ranging in age from 1.6-7 years, they eagerly boarded a bus recently with family and caregivers for a day of communing with nature and experiencing life at a farmstead at Sta. Elena Fun Farms in Sta Rosa, Laguna.

After an hour and a half drive from the city, the sights, sounds and smells of Sta. Elena greeted the children as they got off the bus and met their guide for the day. Farmer Tinky gathered everyone in the small amphitheater for a warm welcome. After being divided into groups, the children took turns visiting different areas of interest.

What makes this place unique are the very accessible enclosures for the different animals inhabiting the farm. While ducks and chickens were wandering freely around the grounds, there were rabbit hutches, beehives, ponds, a horse corral and even rice paddies for the children to discover.

The kids started by visiting the rabbits. Everyone took turns feeding the rabbits with slivers of carrots as they hopped and jumped all around. Next stop was the guinea pig pen, where holding and petting the guinea pigs delighted everyone who tried it. Along the way, there were beehives to see as well as chicken coops and even pig pens for those who could stand the smell.

As in any farm, there were fruits and vegetables at Sta. Elena and the kids got to "pick" corn and take turns fanning coals as they watched the corn slowly roast for their snack.

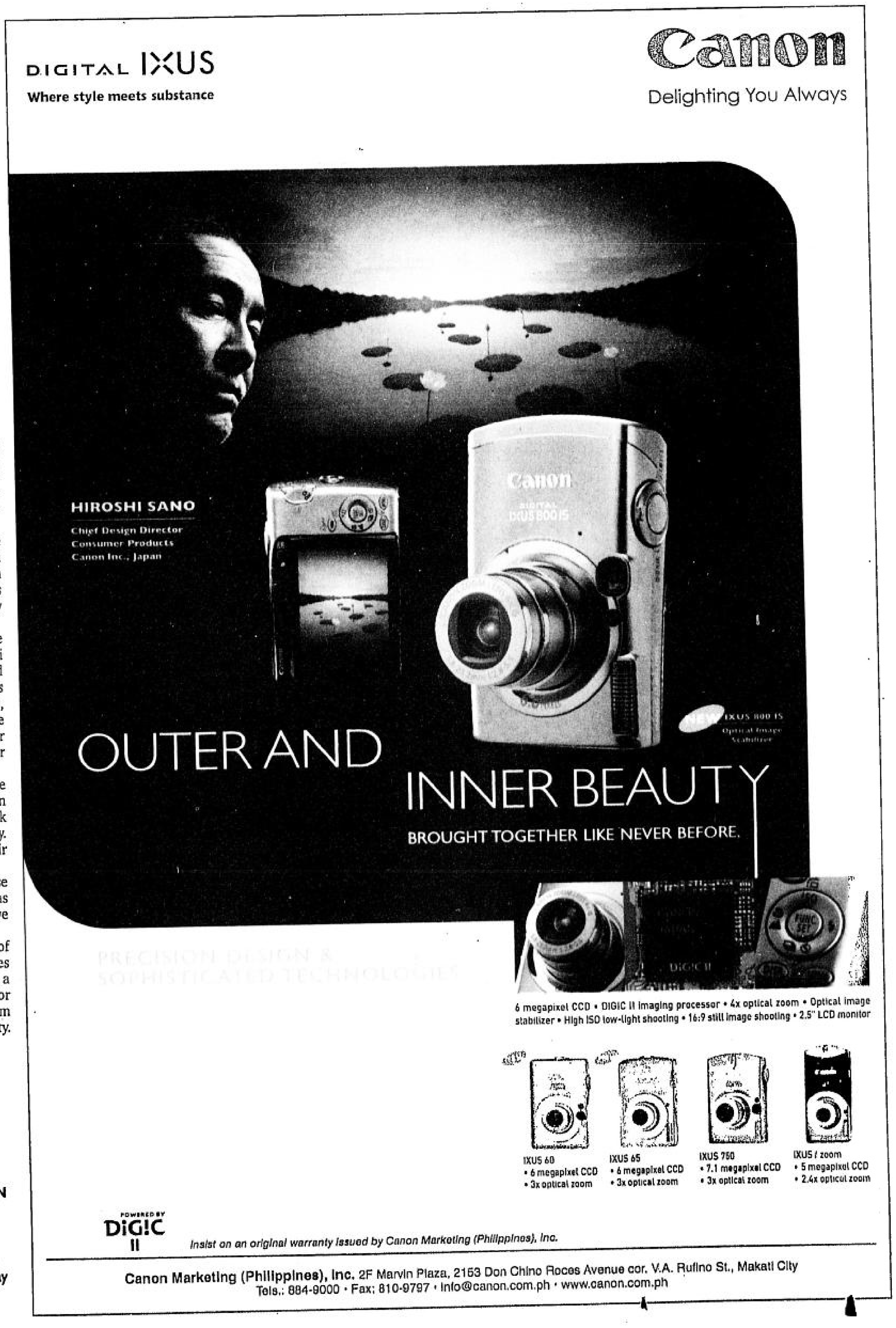
Then to slake their thirst, the wee ones got to make calamansi juice by squeezing the fruit and picking out the seeds. There was also sandwich making. Tomatoes, lettuce and cheese together make a delightful healthy snack. Or simply peanut butter on bread for those with a sweet tooth.

Braving the summer sun, the kids got a chance to go fishing in the well-stocked pond and talk about the one that got away. Those who wished to keep their catch were allowed to do so.

The last treat was the horse ride. For some of the kids, it was their first time to ride a real live horse.

The farm visit was just one of the educational but fun activities at Second Mom, which offers a progressive curriculum for Kinder to Grade 1, and is at Dorm 1 Philsports Arena, Pasig City. Call 6359743 or 6352022.

CHILDREN of Second Mom Childcare preschool spend a day in a real farm.



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See Flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0930 and 2161 Series of 2000

THE GROTTO of Healing and Way of Purification draws people even outside the Pahiyas season.

An enchanting and 'enchanted' spot in Quezon

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

IF YOU'RE WANTING TO ATTEND THE famed Pahiyas festival of Lucban, Quezon, but is discouraged by the idea of joining the similarly minded mass of humanity headed there on May 15, why not ensconce yourself a day or two before the event in a place that is close to nature and just a couple of kilometers away from the town center?

You no longer have to travel far to participate in the many events lined up for Lucban's traditional thanksgiving feast for bountiful harvest. And, after having had your fill of the celebrating, you can retreat to a quiet room or cottage, far from the crowds that Pahiyas usually draws.

The Batis Aramin Resort in Barrio Malupak

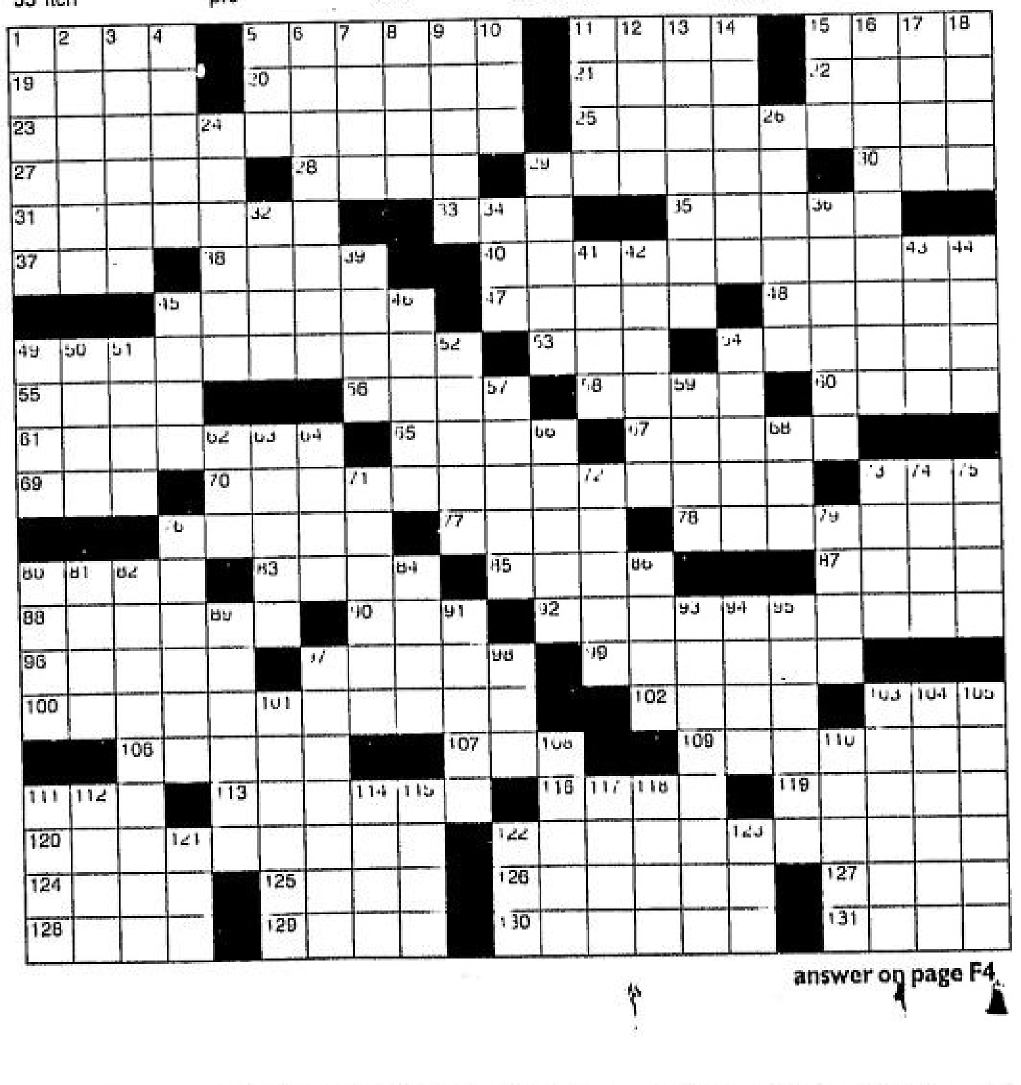
AN ENCHANTING/ D3

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo ON THE 26TH

ACROSS
1 "Quiet!"
5 Arizona baseball team, for short
11 Goatish god
15 Like fine wine
19 Floundering
20 Punk pioneer Joey
21 Teen's bane
22 "— sock in it!"
23 Fervent national leader?
25 Piquant cracker?
27 Lazybones
28 "Now it's clear"
29 Tranquilize
30 Expected
31 Not ending
33 Perched
35 Song part
37 Scepter
38 Wicked
40 Yellow quartz struck by lightning?
45 Early spring bloomer
47 Eyeballed
48 At large
49 Lively ballroom dance?
53 Itch
54 Electric eye, e.g.
55 Cartoon light bulb
56 Crackpot
58 Paris sweetheart
60 — charge (free)
61 Web page
65 Support, with "up"
67 Black cattle variety
69 Suffix with Nepal or Milan
70 Felt cap worn in Harare?
73 Quick punch
76 Alabama city
77 Affectation
78 Venezuelan river
80 — -Aid (drink mix)
83 Wee bits
85 Old grape soda brand
87 This, in Madrid
88 Each
90 John Lennon's widow
92 Expert at dividing up cities?
96 Floor-laying pro
97 With 94-Down, peak on which Moses died
99 Stun guns
100 Dirigible builders' profession?
102 Bulky horn
103 Cry noisily
106 Big name in Syria
107 Yvette's "yes"
109 Marine food fish
111 "—: Miami" (TV series)
113 Deep serving dish
116 Trickle
119 Passe copier
120 Kooky dog?
122 Test in veterinary school?
124 Pay to play
125 Villa d'—, Italy
126 Plaza Hotel girl
127 African river
128 Remainder
129 Bring up
130 Hold dear
131 Plumbing pipes

DOWN
1 More misty
2 Familiar with
3 Fastened shut
4 Healthier-looking
5 "Red River" actress Joanne
6 Medieval church
7 Rock concert equipment
8 Discarded apple part
9 They allow legs to bend
10 "— who?"
11 Disconcert
12 Did very well on
13 Not backed up on disk
14 Made after taxes
15 Arbor Day mo.
16 Sign that shows the way
17 Caesar's reproach
18 Stun
24 Ill-tempered
26 Dr. Seuss title turtle
29 Hammy
32 Declare
34 Dye class
36 Part of ASAP
39 Temporary calm
41 — -bargain
42 Author
43 "Unto us — is given": Isaiah 9:6
44 Nothing
45 Tax prep pros
46 "You can't — hurricane"
49 Web mag
50 — of March
51 Red Rose
52 "— the Greek"
54 "Old Time Rock & Roll" rocker Bob
57 "It's a — situation"
59 Facts
62 Noun-to-verb suffix
63 Mark over an "n"
64 Actress Samms
66 Rosie of "Fearless"
68 Banned gun
71 Terrestrial monkey
72 "— in the Dark"
73 Tease
74 Play opener
75 Husband of Ruth
76 Saws wood
79 CNN fodder
80 "Dr." of Comedy Central
81 Mayberry lad
82 Colors used by Rembrandt
84 Refuse to talk to
86 — the finish
89 Summits
91 Vidalia, e.g.
93 "Yes, it's possible"
94 See 97-Across
95 Music award
97 Ten-story building, e.g.
98 Shih — (toy dog breed)
101 Cyndi of pop
103 Composer Barber
104 Playwright Eugene
105 — it up (ties one on)
108 Objects of worship
110 Arouse, as interest
111 Peter I, e.g.
112 Levelheaded
114 Ms. Kett
115 Israeli president Weizman
117 Tooth part
118 Nastase of tennis
121 As of now
122 Last of 26
123 Jewel



answer on page F4

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

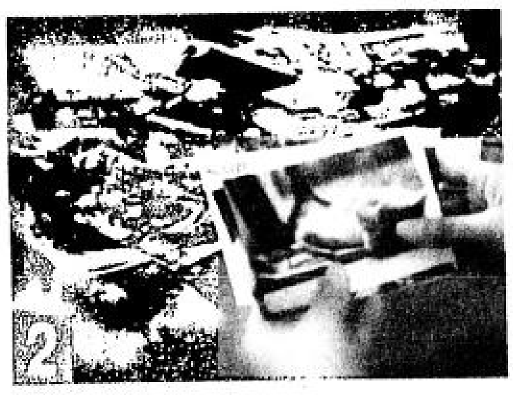
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THANKS
for being there
for loving me
for simply being you
Mom
Happy Mother's Day!♥

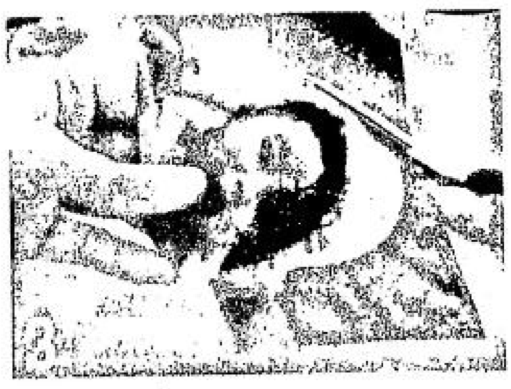
Scrapbooking in 6 easy steps

1

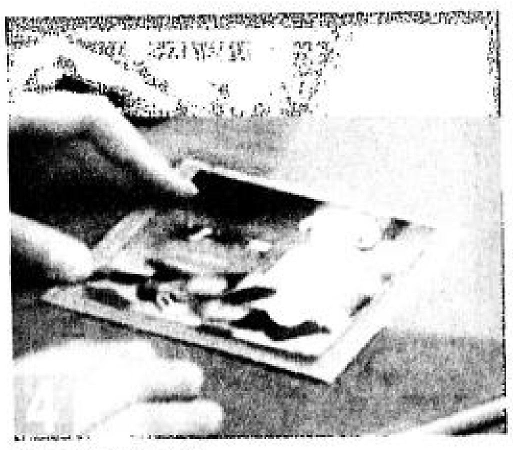
COLLECT the materials needed to start a scrapbook.


2

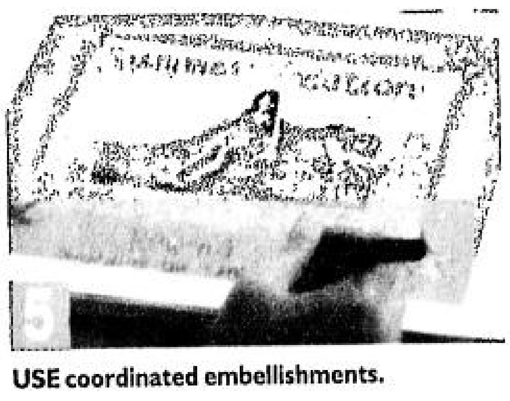
ORGANIZE your photos.


3

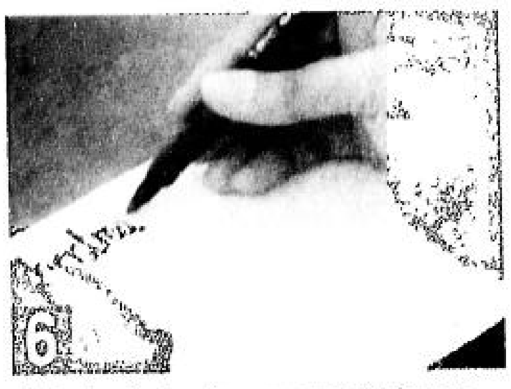
CROP your photos.


4

MAT your photos.


5

USE coordinated embellishments.


6

ADD descriptions to your scrapbook page.

SCRAPBOOKING NOT ONLY PRESENTS a fun and creative way of keeping photographs in tiptop shape; it also makes reliving the memories attached to photos a wonderful experience.

"All a person needs to create a great scrapbook are imagination and memories," says Jette Tabernilla, a scrapbooking instructor who has given workshops to kids as young as 5 years old. Jette says that moms who attend her workshops view scrapbooking as a stress reliever while the children consider it a big help for school projects.

"It's easier to do than most people think," she continues, "You can do it for your own pleasure or to give as a perfect gift. The time and effort you've put in it will show just how much you care for the person who receives it."

Ready to get all colorful and crafty with your very own scrapbook? All About Scrapbooking gives easy-to-follow steps to get you started.

Collect your materials. Photos are at the heart of most scrapbooks, so make sure you have enough to choose from. But don't forget other kinds of materials you can use. It's, of course, important to have your Keepsakes Scrapbook album and scrapbook pages ready as well as your basic scrapbooking tools and adhesives. Keepsakes paper packs, frames, stickers, shapes, Craftin' & Scrappin,' and All About Scrapbooking embellishments offer many possibilities for decorating your scrapbook.

Organize your photos. You can sort photos into smaller categories by grouping them according to events such as birthdays, vacations and holidays, or by compiling the pictures by family members. Label photos in order to record important dates and details. Use a quick-drying marker like the Bic Grip Permanent Felt-tip Marker to ensure that your labels last.

Crop your photos. It's best to select only three to four photos that capture the essence of a relationship or event. You may cut the photos you have chosen into different interesting shapes or designs to make them more attractive. Also make sure that you have the negatives or a CD compilation of the photos for future use. If you are indecisive on how to go about cropping your photos, here are some guide questions to keep in mind. What is the main subject of the photo? What items in the picture divert from this main thought and could be cut out? Is there more than one detail you would like to highlight?

Mat your photos. Highlight pictures by sticking them onto different colored or patterned sheets. You decide on how wide you'd like you're mat to be. Put frames or borders to heighten the effect. Choose your theme and decorate accordingly. There are a lot of themes you could adapt, such as "A Very Merry Christmas," "Baby's Firsts" and "Summer Fun."

Select your colors by keeping your theme in mind. Use pastel tones for a baby-theme scrapbook; bright colors and floral patterns for a summer motif; and reds, greens and golds for the happy holidays.

Use coordinated embellishments to fit your design. Use appropriate adhesives. Bic has a range of acid-free, photo-safe adhesives you can use such as the Bic Gluestick that's great for pasting photos and paper materials; Bic Glue Pen for fibers, threads and ribbons; and Bic All-Purpose Glue for 3D materials that are difficult to mount.

Use titles. Be sure to add a descriptive title to your scrapbook page. You can go for simple titles such as "Sisters" and "New Year's Eve," and include relevant details. You may also use punchy titles like "The Great Get-away" for a memorable vacation or "A Musical Extravaganza" for a concert, recital or school performance. Adding some personal thoughts, poems or quotes will also help establish the story behind those pictures.

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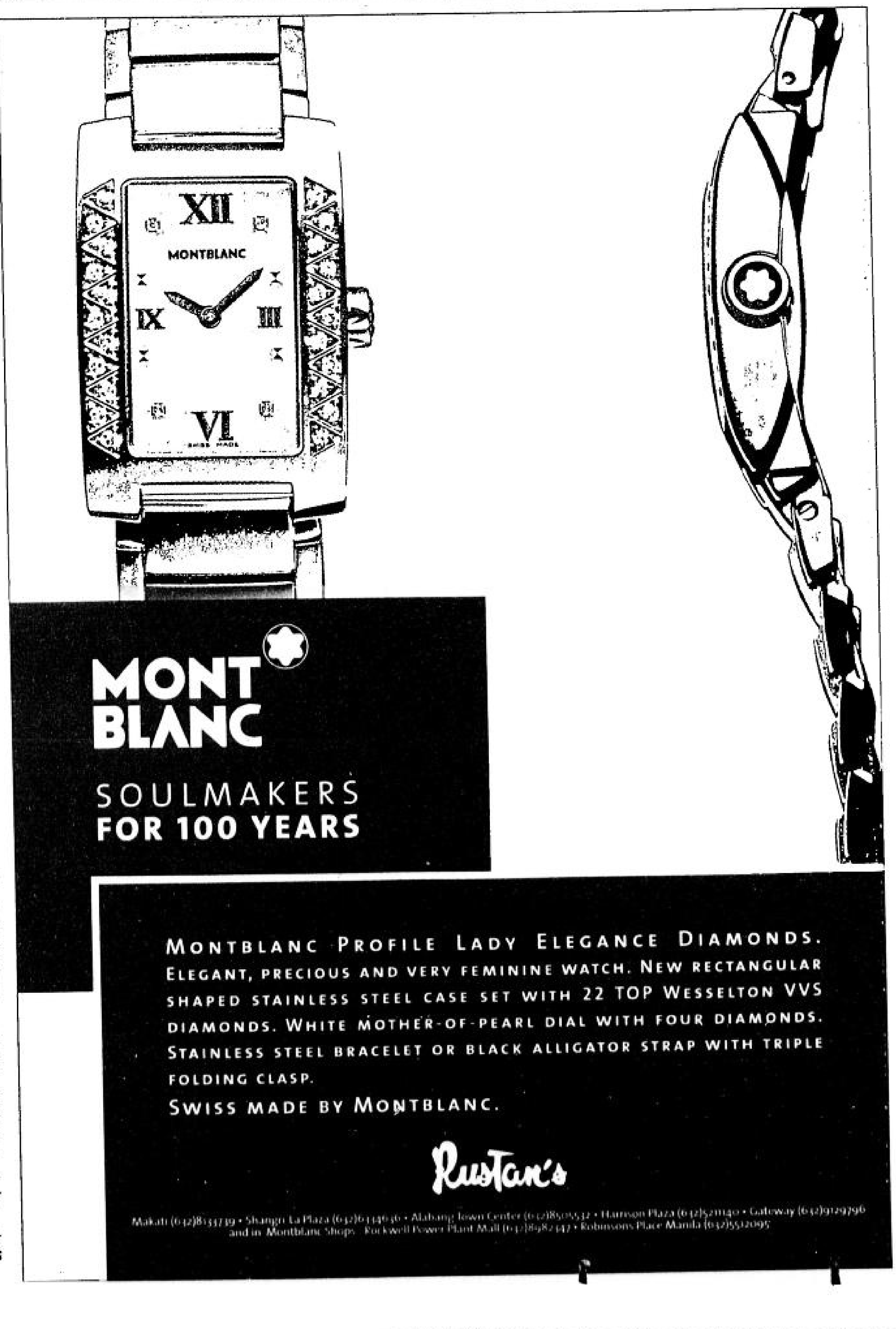

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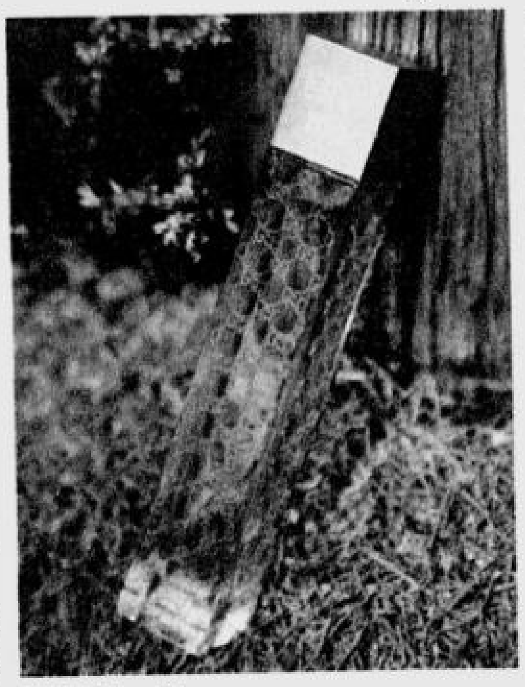
Treasure trove of mommy treats

Scents for Mom


GUCCI Envy Me

PACO Rabanne Pour Elle and Nina Ricci Love in Paris

HERE ARE MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS from Rustan's fragrances.

Gucci Envy Me 2 is a limited-edition fragrance which has a warm, floral scent that charms and seduces the senses with its combination of green magnolia leaves and refined violet leaves blended with sparkling orange oil. it also the captivating woody blend of patchouli and sandalwood notes that prolong the fragrance and a touch of sweet and enticing vanilla.

Escada Signature is a refreshing scent that has the sensual symphony of bergamot and black currant enriched with lush greens and Italian lemon and a splash of magnolia, jasmine muguet, rose and orange blossom.

Paco Rabanne Pour Elle begins with a pure, light and vivid freshness from Italian mandarin and white pepper, softened by a touch of White Freesia. The heart is composed of interlaced flowers like rose, South African flower and jasmine petals while the base is a soft, sensual fusion of peach, massoia wood and amber.

Nina Ricci Love in Paris is a very feminine scent that combines bergamot from Calabria, star anise, white peony and a touch of velvety apricot, jasmine and vanilla.

Lacoste Touch of Sun combines the engaging notes of rose, peony and jasmine, plus vetiver, sandalwood and amber for a vibrant, summery blend.

Hugo Pure Purple has the soulful notes of black violet and amber as well as the fresh, sparkling notes of white cyclamen and nectarine, which are complemented by the base notes of sweet white marzipan and white suede.

The scents are exclusively distributed by Rustan's Marketing Corporation.

Mall treats only for moms

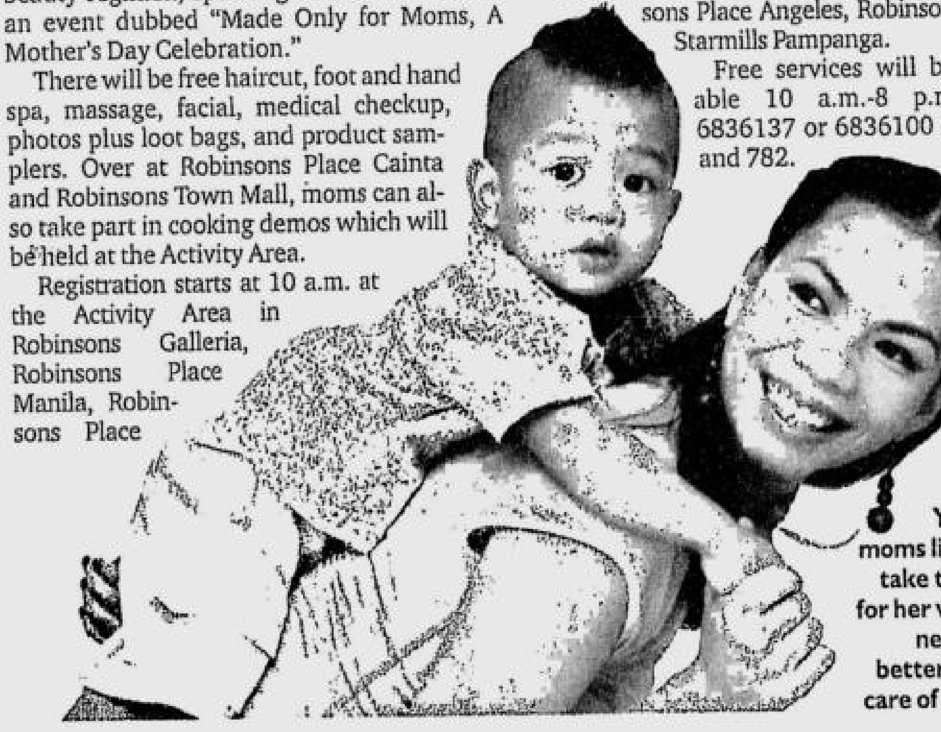
IT'S MOM'S TURN TO HAVE FUN AT THE Robinsons Malls on May 14, Mother's Day.

And what better way to celebrate this happy event than with a full day of pampering, beauty regimen, special gifts and wellness in an event dubbed "Made Only for Moms, A Mother's Day Celebration."

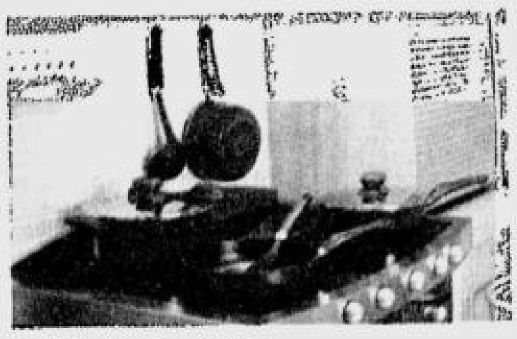
There will be free haircut, foot and hand spa, massage, facial, medical checkup, photos plus loot bags, and product samplers. Over at Robinsons Place Cainta and Robinsons Town Mall, moms can also take part in cooking demos which will be held at the Activity Area.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. at the Activity Area in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Cainta, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños, Robinsons Place Angeles, Robinsons Place Starmills Pampanga.

Free services will be available 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 6836137 or 6836100 loc. 780 and 782.


YOUNG moms like Ging take time out for her wellness needs, the better to take care of son Aki.

For her kitchen


TEFAL active cookware

TEFAL'S ACTIV LINE OF COOKWARE IS A perfect gift for moms.

Tefal Activ has a highly resistant enamel exterior with an anti-deformation base designed to withstand the toughest pressure. At the same time, it is practical and easy to use.

High sidewalls limit splattering and unwanted mess. Steam vent knobs allow heat to freely come out while cooking, preventing the overflow of liquid when it reaches its boiling point.

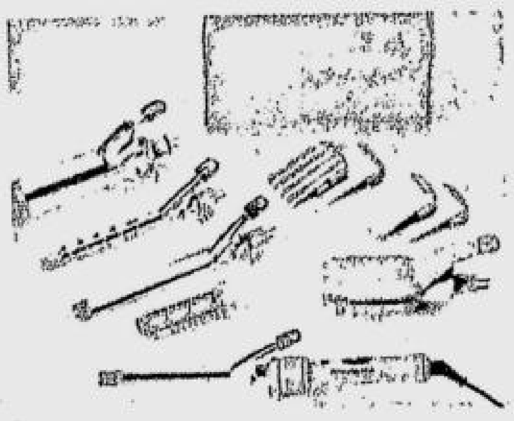
It also has Tefal's signature "thermospot" or heat indicator that lets you know when your pan has reached its optimum cooking temperature. This eliminates guesswork in terms of timing and, consequently, the risk of overcooking.

The best part is, Activ's nonstick interior ensures healthy cooking without the added fat. It also guarantees equal heat distribution so that food is evenly cooked at any given time.

So, treat your moms to a new set of durable Tefal Activ cookware this Mother's Day. You can choose from its roster of frying pans and saucepans. It also has a wok, chicken fryer and a Dutch oven.

Tefal is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and is available at all leading department stores nationwide. Call 8909703.

For her hair


IMAGIN Multi-Accessories

ON MOTHER'S DAY, GIVE YOUR MOMS A practical gift she can make use of every day: a Rowenta Hair Dryer. Rowenta is a German brand with a line of personal care products with innovative designs and high quality.

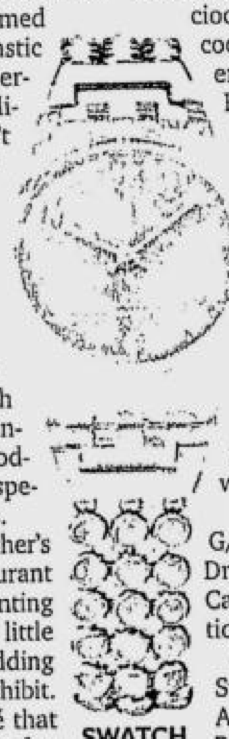
Moms will be delighted with Rowenta's Hair Protect Hair Dryer. It has a concentrator that allows effective blow-drying on a specific area, plus two fan power controls for medium and fast airflow. It also has three temperature controls for ultra-gentle drying, for moderate temperature that allows pre-drying and intense temperature for hair styling and setting. And unlike other hair dryers, this one works silently.

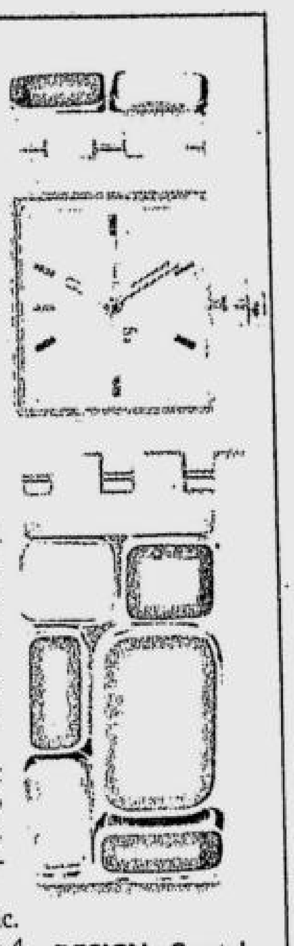
Surprise your more stylish and adventurous mom with Rowenta's Imagin Multi-Accessories. It comes with a set of accessories or tools that are meant to create different hairstyles. Your mom can curl, crimp or straighten her hair in an instant without using any products that can potentially damage her hair.

Imagin heats up fast for quick fixing and styling and includes the following accessories: four curling irons with special inventive shapes and diameters, one brush sleeve adapted to the curling iron, one crimper with two pairs of interchangeable plates and a pouch for easy and quick packing.

Rowenta is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available in all leading department stores nationwide. Call 8909703.

Time out for Mom


SWATCH Mother's Day Special Watch


DESIGN a Swatch for your mom and bring home prizes.

MOTHERING IS THE HARDEST JOB IN the world, with no breaks or overtime pay at all. That's why the best present to give mom this Mother's Day is the gift of time. Swatch and Le Soufflé have teamed up to treat mothers to a fantastic weekend of relaxation, togetherness, and love coupled with delicious food (that mommy doesn't have to cook), beautiful art (to preoccupy the kiddies while mommy gets pampered), and the leisure of time with Swatch timepieces.

On May 13, enjoy the unique experience of "Spa Al Fresco" at the poolside of Rockwell Club. Delight the senses with massages and spa treatments, including your taste buds with goodies from Le Soufflé, and join the special raffle to win Swatch watches.

On May 14, the Swatch Mother's Day Special at Le Soufflé restaurant takes off with an on-the-spot painting exhibition, 3-6 p.m., by the little artists of the ongoing "Budding Leonardos and Amorsolos" art exhibit.

Those who dine at Le Soufflé that day can also join in the painting fun with the Design a Swatch for Your Mom contest. Swatch will provide the artists' materials, you bring the creativity. The talented winners will take home new Swatch watches!

After the special seven-course degustation menu at only P1,000+, save room for dessert as Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sincioco has created a new sweet concoction inspired by Swatch Mother's Day Special watch for 2006. For the first time ever, it is a Skin watch of leather and chrome steel with a stylized flower motif which comes in a lovely usable tea-light candle holder packaging.

And there's more, get a 20-percent discount on Swatch and Flik Flak watches at the Swatch Loves Mom corner at Le Soufflé.

Time is of the essence so make your reservation at Le Soufflé Rockwell now.

Le Soufflé restaurant is located at G/L, Amorsolo Square, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 8906543 or 8907630 for reservations.

Swatch is distributed by Gift Gate, Inc. Swatch stores are located in Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Makati, and SM Megamall Building B; and Gift Gate outlets in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Centerpoint, SM North Edsa, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Ermita, Ali Mall, Quezon Avenue, Greenhills, and SM Cebu.

SPA al fresco at the Rockwell Club on May 13

Awards for moms

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL AND the Muntinlupa City government will present the Gawad Parangal on Mother's Day to women who exemplify the remarkable traits of motherhood.

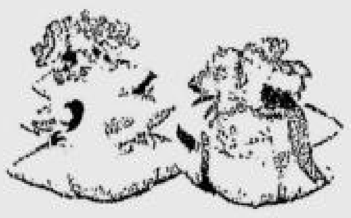
The 24 awardees from the city's different barangays will each get a medal of excellence.

Festival Mall has also lined up various activities to mark Mother's Day.

Call customer service at 8503514. Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Flowers for Mom

HYNDRANGEAS, an old fave


LOVELY scented mini pillows with silk hydrangea floral accent

ON MOTHER'S DAY, SEND your mom a beautiful floral arrangement from Rustan's Flower Shop, which has created a wide array of choices for this day.

It ranges from specially arranged pink potted hydrangeas and potted phalaenopsis to floral arrangements of Stargazer liliums, pink roses and chartreuse Chrysanthemums with accents of aluminum balloons. Other gift items include feminine silk floral arrangements and dainty scented mini-pillows.

Rustan's Flower Shop is at 4/F, Rustan's Makati; 4/F, Rustan's Shangri-La Tower; 1/F, Rustan's Alabang Town Center; G/F, Rockwell Power Plant and Rustan's Supermarkets: Makati, Rockwell, San Antonio, Magallanes, Katipunan, St. Lukes Medical Center and Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

Give mom a floral tribute

THE FLOWER FARM PRESENTS this Mother's Day fresh and contemporary floral designs guaranteed to please every woman who gets them.

Featured blooms include delicate lisianthus, carnations, green bells and more, arranged in a collectible vase, basket or other special container.

So make your mother and other women in your life feel special by giving any of The Flower Farm's special floral arrangements. Even when it is not Mother's Day, you can let them know how much you appreciate them by giving them special floral tributes.

Call The Flower Farm for floral arrangements that will make Mother's Day and any day truly memorable.

Visit www.theflowerfarm.com or The Flower Farm's shops in the Makati Central Business District (8156667); Alabang Town Center (8094609); Ash Creek Center, Greenhills (7227122); and Glorietta 4 (7527206).

CARNATIONS, mums and gerberas

COLLECTION blue weave basket bag

Make your mom's shopping day

DEBENHAMS, HAS A SPECIAL MOTHER's Day offer. Until May 14, customers get a free P250 gift voucher for every P2,500 purchase in womenswear and women's accessories.

Get your mom not only quality and stylish pieces from Britain's favorite store, but also a P250 gift voucher you or your mom can enjoy later on items from the lines of top British Designers like Matthew Williamson and Betty Jackson.

Better yet, why not schedule a shopping date for you and your mom? Take her to Debenhams where she can choose womenswear and accessories from over 20 designer and in-house brands. Surely she will feel an extra rush when she gets the free gift voucher at the end of your spree.

Debenhams is at 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong. Call 6329802.

RED herring studded satchel

ERICKSON Beamon enchanted pink charm bracelet

BETTY Jackson black peach and red print wrap dress

Sassy Kitty in couture

DITA Sandico Ong with Animaland's "Diwata" Kitty

KATE Torralba with her "Sassy Kitty in KT"

FREDERICK Peralta with "Sassy Freida Walks Down the Aisle"

TO CELEBRATE MOTHER'S Day, four of the country's top designers—JC Buendia, Kate Torralba, Dita Sandico-Ong, and Frederick Peralta—styled and dressed up Animaland's adorable and cuddly Sassy Kitty (body stats: 19-18-25).

"We believe we have to offer something special to the great and loving mothers out there. This year's Mother's Day promo is our tribute to the selfless mothers whose love to their children and families is immeasurable," explained Belinda Dy, owner of Animaland, an international chain of retail stores and kiosks that allows stuffed toy-lovers all over the world to make and dress their own stuffed animals.

Dubbed "Designer Kitties for Moms," the Mother's Day promo that will run until May 14 is giving away four kitty stuffed toys, with sizes bigger than the usual. "They are specially made for the occasion, one-of-a-kind, and so they are really collector's items. Plus the fact that famous designers are doing the clothes," said Dy.

To join the promo, every purchase of animal skin entitles the customer to one raffle ticket that will be drawn on May 15 at the Animaland head office on President Quirino Avenue. The kitties will also hit Shangri-La, Rockwell, Eastwood and Alabang Town Center malls for an exhibit.

Buendia's Sassy Kitty donned the designer's signature creature, an elegant gown perfect for red-carpet moments. Torralba, meanwhile, stuck to the young and girly color of cotton-candy pink for her Sassy Kitty's outfit.

Sandico-Ong transformed Sassy Kitty into a beautiful goddess of nature, complete with a wig and a tiara from Animaland's accessories collection. For his part, Peralta came up with a fully beaded Italian corded lace bodice and a bouffant skirt made of Mikado silk, plus a tiara made of real pearls and Swarovski crystals.

Animaland has branches in Eastwood City Libis, Shangri-La Mall, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Alabang Town Center, and soon to open Mall of Asia in Pasay, and Toys R Us in Robinsons Galleria.

A toast to motherhood.

Diamond Hotel Philippines honors mothers with its irresistible Mother's Day promo.
All mothers who dine in any of the hotel restaurants* on Mother's Day will receive attractive gifts from the hotel.

Giveaways include home accents, gift certificates for an aromatic massage at the Diamond Spa,
dinner coupons for 2 at any of the 3 major restaurants and overnight room accommodations.

Not only that, every mother who dines in on Mother's Day will receive one voucher valid until June 18, 2006,
which entitles the holder to a 30% discount of all cakes on display at the Kohikan at the Diamond.

Celebrate Mother's Day at Diamond Hotel Philippines
and you will definitely make your mom feel she's one in a million.

*Yurakuen Japanese Restaurant, Palm Court Café, and Restaurant Le Bellevue

DIAMOND HOTEL
PHILIPPINES
Roxas Boulevard corner Dr. J. Quintos Street, Manila 1000 Philippines
Telephone (632) 528 3000, Fax (632) 526 2255
www.diamondhotel.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. Al-341 Series of 2006

Rexona FOR MEN LIVE XTREME

CONGRATULATIONS XTREME WINNERS!*

5 CHOPPER RIDES + P50,000

Arnel Carlos A. Cagurangan
Novaliches, Quezon City
Alvin P. Garcia
Damilag Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon
Jose Quilisadio
Davao City
Ronald Ricardo
Metro Manila
Leonardo M.Juan
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

3 WILD BIKES

Joey Gusi
Lawton, Manila
Resurrecion Bucayan
Roxas City, Capiz
Jason Sarmiento
Novaliches, Quezon City

1 MONSTER TRUCK

Teddy A. Lorenzo
Lal-lo, Cagayan

*subject to final verification

Call mom on her special day

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, SUN Cellular gives kudos to mothers by making it easier and more affordable to call them abroad using low-rate IDD Top 10 for only $0.10 per minute.

Surprise your mom and loved ones celebrating motherhood in the US, China, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Guam and Macau by calling them and making them feel closer to home. Express how much you love your mom by letting her hear your voice, and exchange stories with longer talk time without worrying about the call charges.

IDD Top 10 not only offers low-rate IDD calls but also creates the opportunity for you to stay connected and build ties that are more meaningful to your Mom from across the miles.

This ultimate cost-friendly service allows both Sun postpaid and prepaid subscribers to call abroad for only $0.10 per minute, which is even less than a local Sun-to-Sun call. What's more, IDD Top 10 has clearer communication lines and better voice quality than Internet calls.

To enjoy this service, postpaid subscribers simply need to enroll their account by calling Hotline 200 or visiting any Sun Shop. For prepaid subscribers, just load an IDD Top 10 call card or convert your regular load (via e-PIN, load purchase through text, or through The Mall) to enjoy the low IDD rate.

Visit www.suncellular.com.ph

Photo exhibit ends today

THE TOP 100 ENTRIES IN THE APPLE of My I photography contest are on exhibit until today, at the North Court, The Power Plant Mall.

The official awarding ceremonies will be held at 7 p.m., today.

Sponsored by Microwarehouse Inc., the contest launched in November sought to capture the Filipino's passion for Apple products.

Tonight's winners were chosen by a panel of judges from advertising, design, film, media and the arts.

At the exhibit, guests can try various Mac products, including the latest iBooks, PowerBooks, the MacBook Pro, iMacs, PowerMacs, all iPod models, and also learn about the latest software.

Microwarehouse Inc. is a leading distributor of networking, mobile and digital lifestyle devices with branches in Pasig City, Metro Cebu and Davao. Call 6370474 or visit www.microwarehouse.com.ph

Paying homage to queens

SURF, THE LAUNDRY DETERGENT, JOINS the celebration of Mother's Day with its Surf Nay Ur D Best: Parangal sa mga Reyna ng Gintong Sandali.

It has also launched Nay Ur D Best: Gintong Parangal Raffle Promo. Lucky mothers can win a furnished Camella Homes house and lot worth P2 Million. Eight families can also win trips to Subic inclusive of accommodations.

An entry must contain a wrapper of any Surf variant and a piece of paper with the contestant's name, address, telephone number and signature. They should be put in a white legal-size envelope labeled with the promo title. Drop boxes for entries are located in selected supermarkets, groceries and public markets nationwide. Entries may also be sent to Unilever Philippines, 1351 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila.

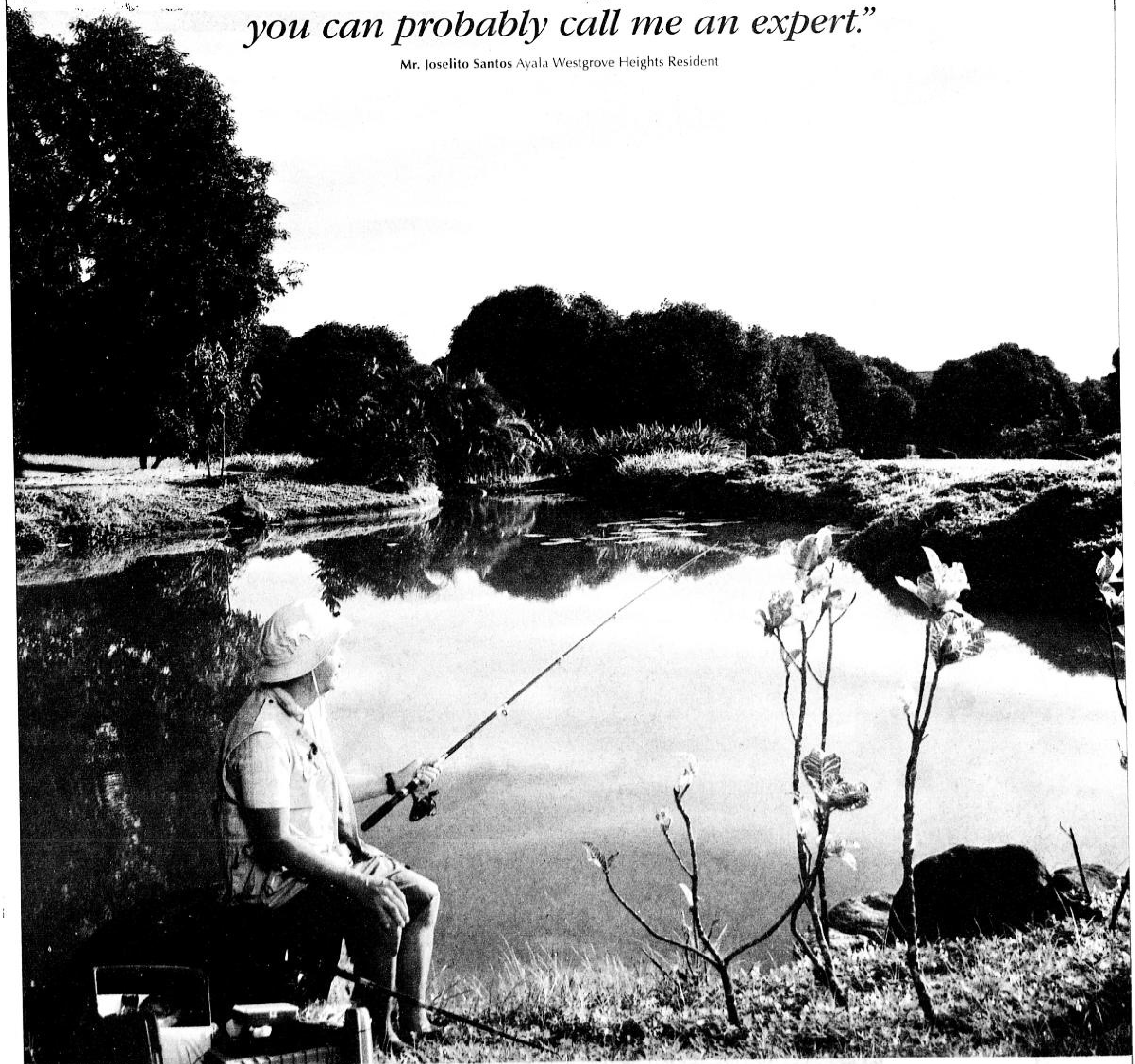
For the duration of Surf's campaign, the television show "Home Boy" (weekdays on ABS-CBN) will feature Gintong Sandali stories of different mothers.

On May 13, Surf's Mother's Day activities culminate with a Reyna de Mayo Concert, featuring the crowning of mothers who are Reyna ng Gintong Sandali.

Nay Ur D Best
Parangal sa mga Reyna ng Gintong Sandali

SURF'S Mother's Day activities culminate with a Reyna de Mayo Concert.

The Gintong Harana Concert will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines grounds and hosted by Boy Abunda and Tin-tin Bersola. The draw for the P2 million house and lot will be held.


AyalaLand PREMIER

"When it comes to spotting The Next Big Thing, you can probably call me an expert."

Mr. Joselito Santos Ayala Westgrove Heights Resident

We were the first family to build a home at Ayala Alabang back in 1978. It took a lot of imagination and courage for us to see the potential in what you may call a very young village back then. But like many decisions I've made in my life, it's really just a matter of foresight and faith. Somehow I knew that Ayala Alabang was the Next Big Thing then. That was the best investment I've made in my life. Until now. My investment adventure continues at the latest Next Big Thing from Ayala Land Premier–Ayala Westgrove Heights. The best from Ayala Land just got better.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SCANDINAVIA Trend brings Danish home design to the Philippines.

PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

PIECES from Masterpiece Furniture and Interiors

Furniture and arts haven in Makati

TREE-LINED AND SHADY, NICANOR Garcia Street, formerly Reposo, is a pleasant distraction from the urban jungle that is the Makati central business district. The street is a cozy designers' haven with one distinctive atelier after another.

But a bigger surprise is LRI Business Plaza, which gathers some 30 or so showrooms by seasoned exporters and manufacturers all under one roof. (LRI stands for Luzon Rattan Industries, Inc.)

Biara showcases eclectic modern pieces. The shop has a decidedly youthful flair. There are no ornate pieces, but minimalistic and simply executed furniture. (Call 8905443.)

Masterpiece Furniture and Interiors can craft the style or design period you want. The company is under the Simbulan Group, a veteran in furniture making. (Call 8908258.)

The Origins is an elegant home center that carries finely made home essentials. Origins also carries quality brands such as Smith & Brown, EZ chairs and recliners and Tones. It also accepts client-specified requirements.

Origins is the sister company of Pacific Art & Décor International and Asia Pacific Exim Trade Inc., prominent names in furniture manufacturing and export. (Call 8978230.)

The Celestial Lighting & Interiors Corporation covers a wide range of furniture, from ceiling lamps to chandeliers, floor lamps, gate lamps, hanging lamps, table lamps, wall lamps and garden lamps. It also has home accents and minor furniture pieces such as side tables. (Call 8973273.)

Scandinavia Trend brings classic Scandinavian furniture to the Philippines. Per Stangegaard, company president and a true-blue Dane, seeks to make the Philippines appreciate things Danish. (Call 8905588.)

Habi is a shop and a source of fine handwoven products from the various regions. Each region has its own peculiar weft and warp, making for its products' uniqueness and attractiveness. (Call 8982909.)

The LRI Business Plaza also plays host to art galleries and food places such as Caffe Caruso, Caffe Ricco Renzo and Foot Options Spas. The building is at 210 Nicanor Garcia Street in Bel Air II, Makati City. Call 8951772 and 8955470.

On May 27-28, an association of art galleries, furniture and furnishing design showrooms called Grupo Reposo, together with well-known artists, entrepreneurs and musicians, will hold the 2nd Reposo Art and Music Festival, in conjunction with the annual Makati Day celebration.

There will be a mural painting session, sculpture installation, performances by Coke Bolipata and the Youth Peace Symphonic Orchestra, and street bazaars to be participated in by LRI Business Plaza tenants and other establishments on Nicanor Garcia Street.

For inquiries on Grupo Reposo, call LRI or Galerie Astra at 8903988.

BIARA dining set

SUMMER AT THE GARDEN
Our Promo, **ROOM** for as low as
P1,450 net per person
on twin sharing
INCLUSIONS:
- Room accommodation for two adults & two kids below 12 yrs.old
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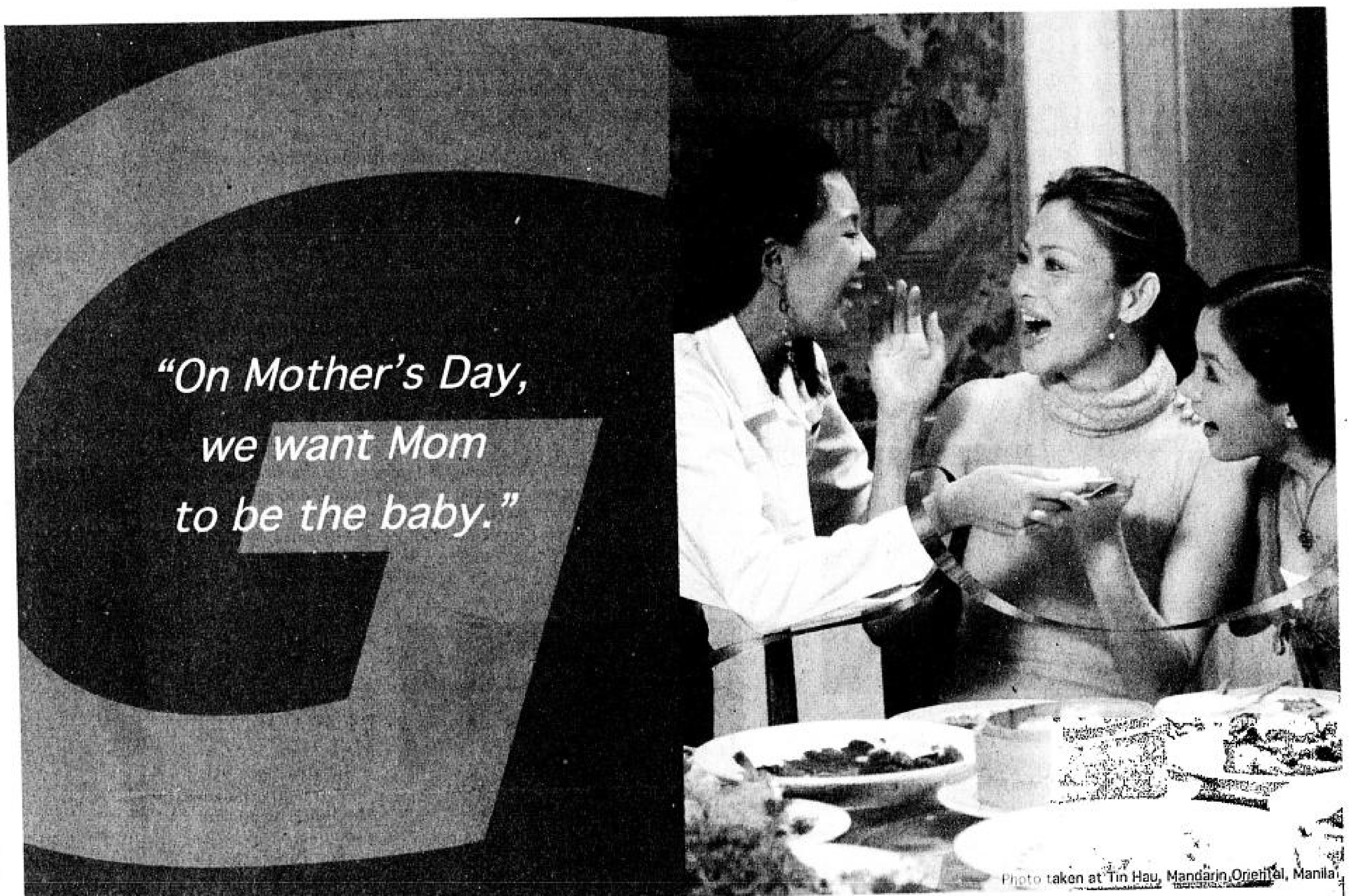

"On Mother's Day,
we want Mom
to be the baby."
Photo taken at Tin Hau, Mandarin Oriental, Manila

For a select few, it's possible

Globe
PLATINUM

Make your reservation, present your Globe Platinum card and enjoy privileges that are reserved for the very discriminating.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA — Mom gets a free meal when she visits Tin Hau and avails of the Tin Hau Buffet or set menu and dines with 3 paying adults. Offer is from May 1 to 31.

INTERCONTINENTAL. MANILA — Treat Mom to a special lunch or dinner buffet at Café Jeepney that includes a complimentary cake and bottle of wine for her. For the rest of the month, Mom can enjoy a 20% discount on her total bill.

DIAMOND HOTEL PHILIPPINES — On Mother's day, Mom gets a complimentary cake and bottle of wine when she dines at Palm Court Café & Bar, Bellevue, Yurakuen or Sky Lounge. For the rest of the month, Mom can enjoy a 20% discount on her total bill.

RENAISSANCE. MAKATI CITY HOTEL MANILA — Mom gets a free rose, cake, bottle of wine and chocolates when she dines at the Coffee Shop, Emperor Court or Bocarinos from May 1 to 31.

THE MARCO POLO DAVAO — Get a free meal and a complimentary drink at Cafe Marco or Lotus Court for Mommy with a minimum of three paying guests (3 + 1) on May 14. For the rest of the month, Mom can enjoy a 20% discount on her total bill.

THE PENINSULA — Mom and her companion gets a 20% discount on massages (including reflexology, aromatheraphy and facial massages), use of the pool and spa facilities, plus a complimentary box of pralines or truffles for Mom from May 1 to 31.

Rustan's — Mom and 2 companions can enjoy a 3-day exclusive home sale for up to 50% discount from May 12 to 14 at the cordoned area of Rustan's Home, Shangri-La Mall.

All offers require reservations and are valid for cash transactions only except for Diamond Hotel, Manila and Rustan's.

For more details call 730-1000 or log on to www.globeplatinum.com.ph

only for you, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Promo duration is May 1 to 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1084. Series of 2006.

Mama Mary converts mayor

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

THE CONVERSION TO Catholicism of Mayor Ricardo Presbitero Jr. of Valladolid, Negros Occidental, is a heartwarming and inspiring story told in the "Miracles of Mary."

Valladolid was dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe by Augustinian Recollects in 1851.

Though Mayor Presbitero's family was Aglipayan, when his mother got cancer, he prayed to a large icon of the Virgin of Guadalupe that his mother be healed. His prayer was answered.

When his older brother Jack, the former mayor, suffered a stroke and went into a coma, Presbitero again prayed to the Virgin. His brother woke up several days later.

Mayor Presbitero eventually converted to Catholicism.

We attended the Palm Sunday Mass at 7 a.m. in Valladolid, with Fr. Alfredo Gamarcha and his assistant Fr. Bong Gamala leading the people in worship.

Cured

Imee Luzuriaga said she was cured of cancer of the ovary through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She and husband Sonny, with Romeo and Terry Pison, went to Mexico to thank the Virgin in her Basilica.

The Philippine ambassador to Mexico, the late Justo Orros Jr., brought them to Msgr. Diego Monroy to witness the signing of the sisterhood pact between the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Manaoag Parish in Pangasinan. Ms Luzuriaga said Our Lady was a "sister, mother and friend," just waiting for us to ask for her help.

Chapel

Beside the old church of the Guadalupe in Valladolid is a small chapel built by Herman "Macoy" Lopez Jr. and his wife Dolly, which has a digital copy of the original icon of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico.

The chapel was built in thanksgiving for the remission of Macoy's cancer of the larynx.

Macoy's devotion developed through his friendship with Bro. Gartian Murray, a La Salle brother who ran the Bacolod Boys Home. Bro. Gartian later became a priest.

Alfredo Gamarcha, one of the orphans in the home, is now the parish priest of Valladolid. Macoy said when Fr. Gartian died, people around his deathbed saw him lift his arms and say "Our Lady is here to take me home."

Icon in shells

Leticia Ledesma, now in her 70s, makes awesome icons of saints using shells. She did an 8" x 12" icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe and, in her workshop, she has icons of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sta. Ana fiesta

The feast day of Our Lady of the Abandoned, patroness of Sta. Ana, Manila, will be marked May 11-12. A nine-day Novena of Masses began May 3.

The Virgin's image is the oldest in the church, enthroned in 1717. It has a crystal baton handed to her by Fr. Francisco de la Cuesta, archbishop of Manila in 1720.

Until now, miracles and special favors are attributed to her. The parish is at Pedro Gil and New Panaderos Streets, Sta. Ana, Manila.

At 5 p.m. every first Saturday, a healing Mass is held. Saturday novenas are held 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Behind the *retablo* of the church's main altar is a chapel, the Camarin de la Virgen.

VALLADOLID Mayor Ricardo Presbitero Jr. converted to Catholicism.

Ermita fiesta

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will officiate at the concelebrated Mass marking the feast day of Nuestra Señora de Guia at 5:30 p.m., May 19. Novena Masses will be held at 6 p.m., May 10-18, at the Ermita Church, archdiocesan shrine of the Virgin. Fr. Sanny de Claro is rector and parish priest.

Boac fiesta

The feast of Our Lady of Biglang Awa will be marked May 10, starting with a 9 a.m. Mass in the cathedral.

Those in Metro Manila, can visit the Holy Family Parish on Madre Selva St., Roxas District, where Fr. Omer Prieto of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque has enthroned the Virgin.

Sunduan

La Huerta, Parañaque holds a *sunduan* at 7 p.m. today to mark the fiesta of San Nicolas de Tolentino. The de Castro family is this year's *hermanos*.

The Bayanihan Dance Troupe will perform.

IMEE Luzuriaga (second from left), Arlene Andres, Dr. Christine Sarabia Heras, the author, Meng Canlas of "Miracles of Mary" show, and Nellie Sarabia

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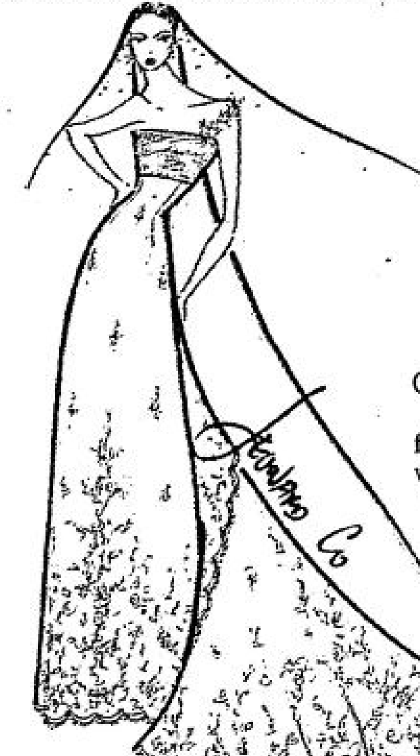
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



CHONG-SO

Sherri Lyn So, daughter of **Alfonso So** and **So Ong Bian Bian**, will exchange vows with **Barnaby Chong**, son of **Armando** and **Esperanza Chong**, today at Patio Victoria.

The bride will wear a white organdy gown with criss-cross crushed top and fully embroidered bouffant skirt, designed by **Leonard Co.**

PACHECO-MARTIR

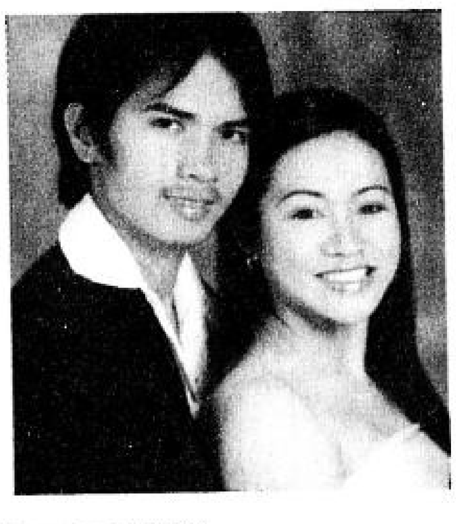
Gary Pacheco married recently **Karen Anne Martir** at San Bartolome de Novaliches Parish. Reception was at Shangri-La Finest Chinese Cuisine, QC.

PINEDA-ORTIZ

Ryan Pineda, son of **Emiliano** and **Carmen Pineda**, and **Marie Mignonette Ortiz**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Cristeta Ortiz**, exchanged vows at the Immaculate Conception Parish, Sta. Maria, Bulacan. The bride's gown was designed by **Jojo Manalo.**

SALVADOR DEBUT

Maria Lianne P. Salvador, daughter of businessman **Angelito** and **Anita Salvador**, celebrated her 18th birthday with a motif of flowers and butterflies at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko. The second of three girls, she is a Business Administration student at Miriam College.

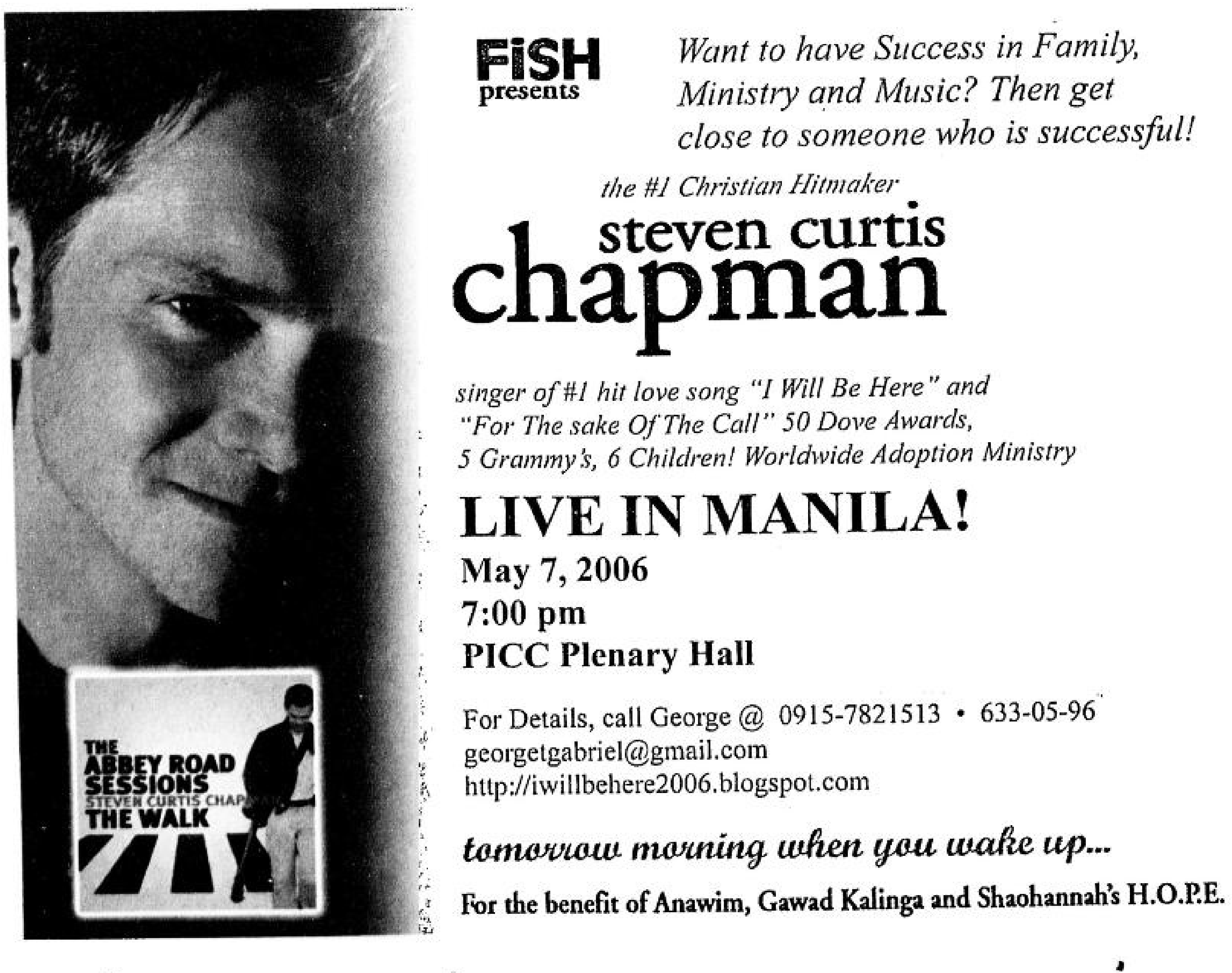


DIMAANO-TIONGSON

Wilbert Dimaano, son of **Felix** and **Melody Dimaano** of Balete, Batangas, will marry **Celeste Tiongson**, daughter of **Rogelio** and **Zosima Tiongson** of Makato, Aklan, on May 14 at Our Lady of Peace and Good voyage Church in Balete, Batangas. Hair and make-up by **Vina Erival.**

MCCANN DEBUT

Henry and **Ma. Socorro McCann** hosted recently a party at Fernwood in Quezon City to mark the debut of their daughter **Samantha**. The debutante's three brothers, **Carlos, Chester** and **Christopher**, joined their father in the 18 Roses dance. She wore a pink satin gown and tiara then changed into a red number, as she greeted her guests and danced the the rest of the evening.



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singer of #1 hit love song "I Will Be Here" and "For The sake Of The Call" 50 Dove Awards, 5 Grammy's, 6 Children! Worldwide Adoption Ministry

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May 7, 2006
7:00 pm
PICC Plenary Hall

For Details, call George @ 0915-7821513 • 633-05-96
georgetgabriel@gmail.com
http://iwillbehere2006.blogspot.com

tomorrow morning when you wake up...

For the benefit of Anawim, Gawad Kalinga and Shaohannah's H.O.P.E.

GOINGS ON

Soroptimist's 40th year

THE SOROPTIMIST International of the Philippines Region (SIPR) is holding its 20th biennial conference today at the Crowne Plaza Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, QC. The Philippine chapter marks this year its 40th anniversary.

SEMINAR ON TEACHING. The Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines will conduct a seminar-workshop on "Creativity in Teaching: Using Pedagogical Arts (theater, songs, dances) and Sponges to Enhance Classroom Learning," May 31-June 2, at the Benitez Hall, Teachers Camp, Baguio City. Call 074-4428877 to 78/074-4469866 or e-mail ilsc06@yahoo.com.ph.

FOOD SEMINAR. The Catering Seminar is set for May 10, 3-6 p.m.; Basic Culinary Course, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., May 9-12. Enrollees get a free Mix and Match cookbook. Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City; or call 8921185, 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

ENGLISH SEMINARS. Corban Communications Inc. holds Easy English seminars, 2-5 p.m., every Saturday and/or Sunday. Call 8426665, 8093050 or 09176297718.

BUSINESS SEMINARS. Businessmaker is conducting the following seminars: May 13, 20, 27—Business Start-Up for Entrepreneurs; May 19 and 26 and June 2—Beads Workshop Series: Fashion for Fun and Profit. Call 6874445, 6873416, 6874645 or visit www.businessmaker-academy.com

CREATIVE WORKSHOP. The Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops, a project of the Development Academy of the Philippines, Creative Media Professionals Guild of Asia and the Pacific, will hold a one-week workshop, May 8-13 and May 22-27, at the DAP Conference Center and Hotel in Tagaytay City. Call 8929421, or Tagaytay at 4133840.

AGRIBUSINESS FOR COCO FARMERS. The Department of Agrarian Reform will implement the Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) in agrarian reform zones. The project will benefit 55,000 coconut farmers from 25 cooperatives. Call 9287031 to 39.

REVIEW COURSES. Enrollment for Ahead Tutorial and Review Center's review courses for college entrance examinations of Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University and the University of the Philippines. Review classes will be held May 12-June 2 is ongoing. Call 4260034 or visit www.aheadph.com.

3G Amazing Race participants rush for clues

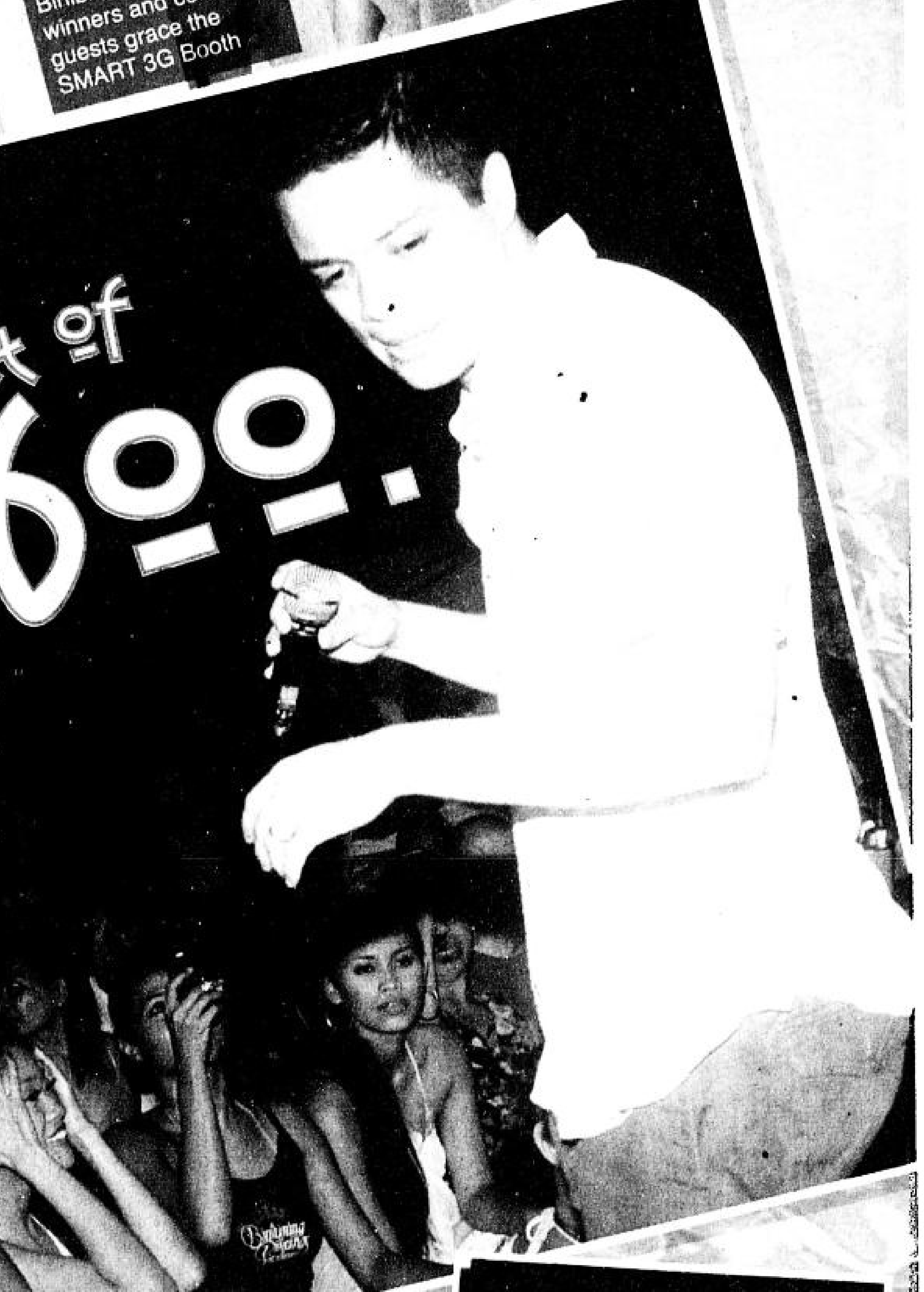
SMART Buddy Green Balloon marks the SMART Buddy event site

Binibining Pilipinas '06 winners and celebrity guests grace the SMART 3G Booth

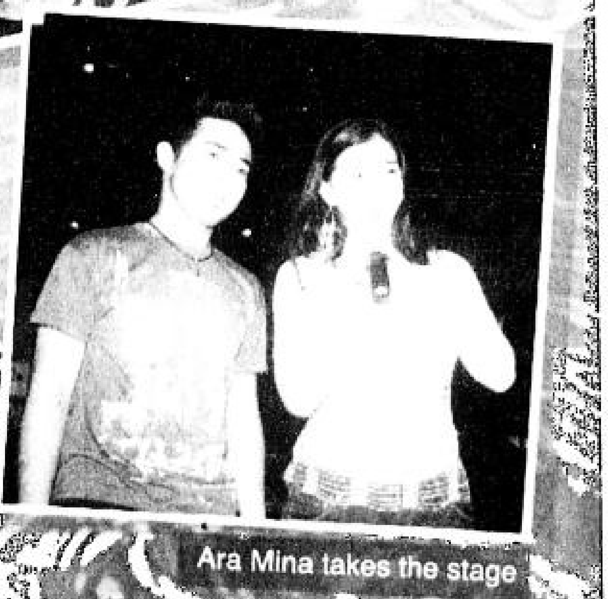
Nothing like a good beach massage -for FREE

Bora groovin' to the Beat of Bamboo.

SMART Buddy HOT Summer Samahan!



Ira (lead guitar) rocks the Bora crowd



Ara Mina takes the stage

Nathan (bass)

Yazmin Kurdi hypes up the fans

Bono and Epi Quizon host the show

Barbie Almalbis jives up the Bora night scene

Highly-fueled Bora crowd cheering by the Main Stage

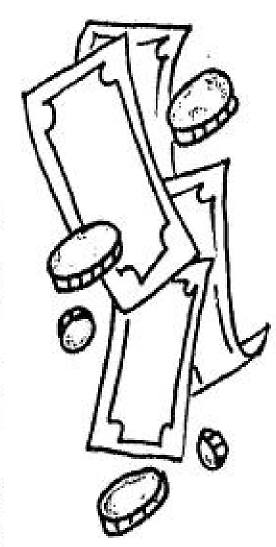
Bamboo wows the crowd

Be part of the hottest summer connection! Join the SMART Buddy Gang in Pampanga on May 12-13 for destination four of the SMART Buddy Hot Summer Samahan!

Money makes this couple unhappy

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo



DEAR EMILY,

My boyfriend and I are planning to get married next year, but I don't know if I really want to marry him. Three years ago, I had some financial problems and used his money without telling him. I just said I got involved in the "5-6" scheme.

But he found out it was a lie and became angry.

Since then, our relationship became a nightmare. It sort of gave him the license to hurt me physically. He berates me for the minutest mistakes I make and recalls what I did over and over again. I know it's my fault. Had I not done what I did, this wouldn't be happening.

Two years ago, a close male friend who works abroad came home, and we met accidentally. He used to be my crush but I didn't know he felt the same way about me. Our "illicit" affair started. My boyfriend knows about him.

Although we tried to end our relationship, I would find myself running to this guy every time my boyfriend and I quarreled.

I tried to break up with my boyfriend, telling him I couldn't stand his cruelty anymore and I'd make arrangements to pay him. I said I couldn't grow with him as I always found myself wallowing in self-pity every time we fought.

He took it badly. I thought something was going to happen to him so we didn't break up. But, though we patched things up, my feelings have changed.

The other guy and I are still on. My boyfriend learned about it and got mad. I promised him that I would end my relationship with my friend, but I couldn't do it. We still secretly meet and talk.

I thought my relationship with my boyfriend would change as we started to plan for our wedding. But we fought again when I was not in the mood to do something he wanted. He dug up the money issue again and my affair with the other guy.

I told him then I couldn't hang on anymore. He really got angry and told me that, instead of wallowing in self-pity, I should do something to win back his love, trust, care and passion.

I don't know what to do. I want to break up with my boyfriend. But I cannot talk to him in a civilized manner. I am unable to express myself freely because he starts screaming when I try.

He is right I should be thankful to him that, despite what I did, he didn't leave and even took care of me. But every time I make a small mistake, he brings up the old issues and makes me feel guilty over again.

My friend is waiting for me to change my mind about the wedding. He knows what's happening and always tries to console and help me see things in a positive way, which my boyfriend doesn't do. I don't know what to do.

CONFUSED BRIDE

There's so much distrust between your boyfriend and you that you've reached a dead end in your relationship. You two are just running round and round in a little corner. He has started to sound like a broken-record and you allow him to physically and verbally abuse you because you're dripping with guilt.

If this "friend" of yours really loves you and understands what you're going through, why don't the two of you raise the money and repay your boyfriend with interest just to stop all this misery once and for all? Is it in the hundreds of thousands that you can't imagine paying it all back, ever?

Your boyfriend has the right to get angry for your absconding with his money.

He has also every right to fume at you for having an affair with the other guy when you are already about to get married. But he has no right to abuse you physically and verbally. You're not even married and already he has raised his hand in anger. There's so much unhappiness all around.

Are you two being held together only by the money that was lost?

You compounded the money problem by having an affair. If it will appease him and ease your guilt, pay back your boyfriend by giving him one of your kidneys or part of your liver, if you can't give him cash!

That's a joke, of course. Just do something. Get away not only from your boyfriend but also your lover to help you clear your mind to think of what you should do next. Not what you want to do. There's a difference.

You're in deep water, kid. Swim out of it before you drown.

(**Erratum:** I received a slew of e-mail from lawyers and concerned readers regarding the April 30 column, "Kissing (first) cousins." They cited Article 38 of the Family Code of the Philippines that stated: "The following marriages shall be void from the beginning for reasons of public policy:

(1) Between collateral blood relatives, whether legitimate or illegitimate, up to the fourth civil degree; x x x ." Mea culpa).

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

H	U	S	H	■	D	B	A	C	K	S	■	F	A	U	N	■	A	G	E	D
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CHICCO MEGAMALL
2nd Level, Bldg. A, SM Megamall

CHICCO NORTH EDSA
LGF, Main Bldg., SM City

CHICCO EASTWOOD
2/F Eastwood City Walk 2, Libis, QC

CHICCO ROCKWELL
3rd/Flr., Power Plant Mall, Makati

CHICCO GLORIETTA II
2nd Level, Ayala Ctr., Makati

CHICCO FESTIVAL MALL
3rd Level, Festival Supermall, Alabang

Step 5: To earn a reward, customer must purchase at least 2 product categories that correspond to a certain amount. The higher the total amount of purchase, the higher the value of rewards. Promo starts April 15 up to September 15, 2006 See flyers for details or email us at mktg@richwell.net or fax us at 743-1654 Per DTI NCR Permit #1793 Series of 2006

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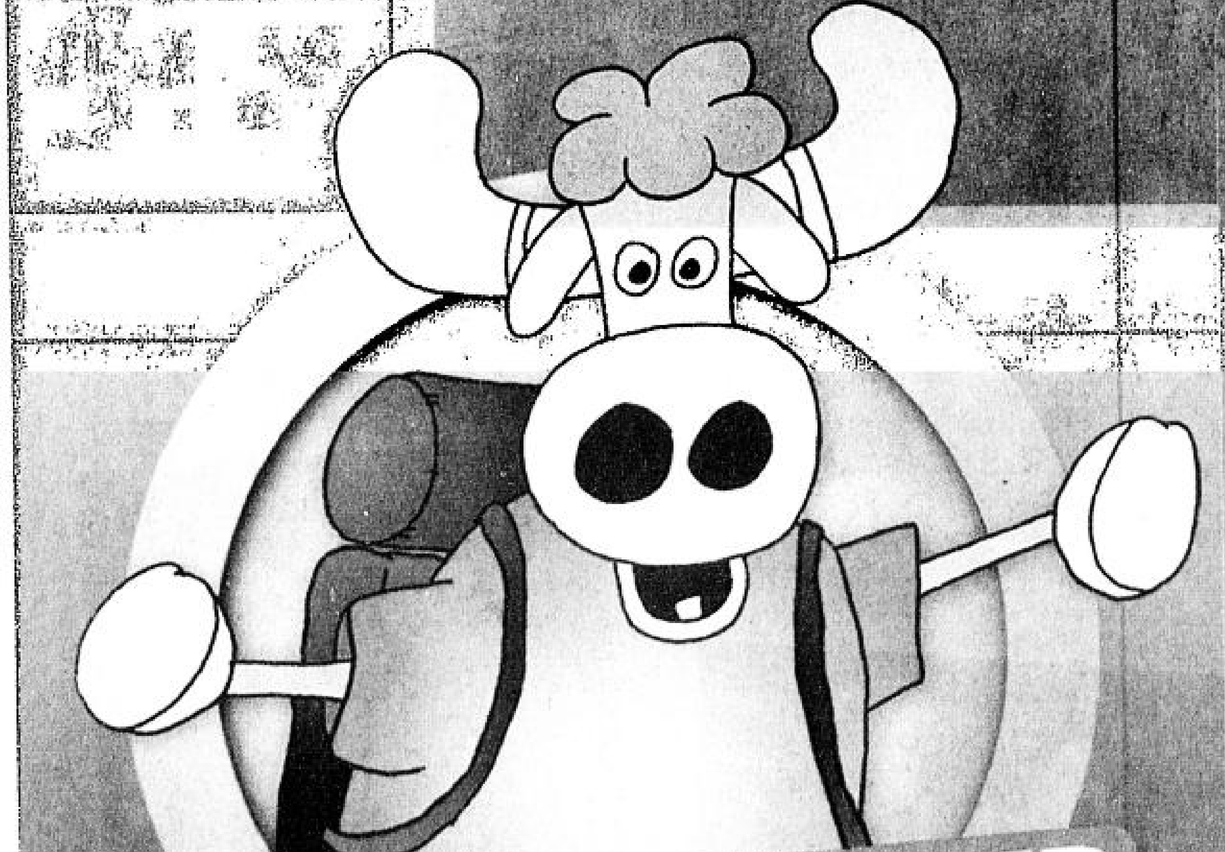
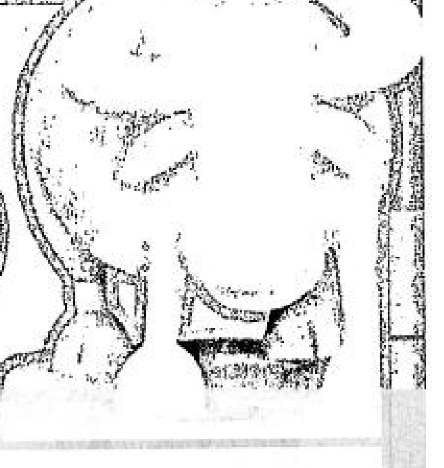
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DON'T MISS YOUR FIRST AND LAST TIME TO SEE THE LIFE-SIZE SCULPTURED GUYITO CARABAOS, HAND-PAINTED BY RENOWNED ARTISTS LIKE MALANG, BENCAB AND KIDLAT TAHIMIK, AMONG OTHERS.





PAINT A GUYITO CONTEST

For a minimal fee, get a chance to paint your own miniature Guyito masterpiece and enter it in our "Paint a Guyito Contest." Winners will be featured in the Junior Inquirer Magazine.

Mechanics

1. Register at the PDI booth
2. Surrender 5 cut-out coupons to get your free miniature Guyito and painting kit or you can purchase it for only P75
3. Paint the miniature Guyito
4. Submit your entry to PDI representatives

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MAY 22, 23, & 24
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Nestlé Chuckie Kellogg's

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SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2006

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on May 16, 2006, 2:00 p.m., Ground Floor, AMD Conference Room of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION		Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE					
RIZAL					
BLGA-01	House and lot (TCT No. N-53026) with bodega/poultry house	879	Burgos, Rodriguez	P	799,600.00
BLGA-02	Residential lot (TCT No.R-3761)	1,057	Along Berkley St. and Mission Hills Boulevard, Sta. Barbara Luxury Estate, Filinvest Mission Hills, Bo. Colaique (now San Roque) Antipolo City fronting Subdivision Clubhouse.	P	6,342,000.00
BLGA-03	Residential lot (TCT No.R-3760)	1,236	- do -	P	6,798,000.00
BLGA-04	Residential lot (TCT No. 663764)	308	Along Clarkson St. Sta. Catalina I, Filinvest Mission Hills, Bo. Muzon (now Mahabang Parang), Angono	P	1,540,000.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")					
AM-PY-126	M/T "COS ODYSSEY", an ABS-classed self-propelled coconut oil tanker, welded mild steel hull, single deck, 498.64 tons-GT, 315 36 NT, built 1998, powered by two (2) units CATERPILLAR Marine Diesel Engine with standard accessories and navigational equipments		Barge Pool, BASECO Breakwater, Manila Bay, Manila	P	55,259,400.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours, and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM and (047) 237-2232 and 818-9511 loc. 1434 for Code BLGA

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI—May 6 & 7, 2006)

SEMINAR ON LAND LAWS & TITLES

TOPICS: Doctrines on Land Ownership • Land Registration Laws • Local Gov't. Code on Town Planning & Zoning • Land Classification/Reclassification • Registration, Licensing, Monitoring & Clearances for Real Estate Projects • Homeowners' Associations & Intra-Corporate Disputes Agrarian & Urban Land Reform • Leasing & Tenant Relations • Forms & Contracts
PANEL DISCUSSION on COMMON REAL ESTATE FRAUDS

Speaker : **ATTY. AMADO B. DELORIA**
Former Commissioner for Adjudication, Housing & Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)

Including Resource Persons from the Registry of Deeds (RD), Land Registration Authority (LRA), and the HLURB during Open Forum

June 9, 2006 (Friday) * 9am to 5pm
Amphitheater, Ateneo de Manila Professional Schools,
#20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

Participation Fees:
* *inclusive of hand-outs, 1 lunch, 2 snacks, & certificates*

✓ *Php 2,500.00 – CREBA Members*
✓ *Php 3,500.00 – non-CREBA Members*

For Inquiries, visit or call: Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA)
3/F CREBA Center, Don A. Roces Ave. cor. South 'A' Street, Quezon City
☎ (632) 373 2270 to 75
Email: creba_inc@yahoo.com

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: Lease of The Manila Film Center (MFC)

Brief Project Description: Lease of the following areas of the Manila Film Center (MFC) building, with a total area of 52,961.49 sq.m.

1. Archives Level - 12,234.90 sq.m
2. Intermediate Level - 7,588.27 sq.m
3. Colonade Level - 6,839.32 sq m
4. Second Level - 1,240.20 sq.m
5. Third Level - 1,447.35 sq.m
6. Fourth Level - 7,137.77 sq.m
7. Ramp & Stairs outside the Building - 16,473.68 sq.m

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting May 09, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 12, 2006; 1:30pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before May 26, 2006; 1:30pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on May 26, 2006; 1:30pm at the CCP Board Room, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives

The award of the project shall be based on the highest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
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(Sgd.) CHRIS B. MILLADO
BAC Chair

(PDI – April 30 & May 7, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that effective immediately, the following persons are no longer connected as agents of **A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc.** (a corporation engaged in the distribution of **Reader's Digest** and **Time** magazines):

Robert Baring
Nickname: Bob
Full-time
Sales Associate

Raul Sadullo
Full-time
Sales Associate

Danilo Llesol
Nickname: Danny
Full-time
Sales Associate

Ricardo Capistrano
Nickname: Ric
Full-time
Sales Associate

NO PICTURE AVAILABLE
FRANK NOVESTERAS
Full-time
Sales Associate

AZS Marketing
Owned by:
Arman Sebastian
Luz Sebastian
Address:
1164 Pres. Quirino Ave Malate Manila

NO PICTURE AVAILABLE
GERRY LEYGO
Full-time
Sales Associate

Any transaction effected thru these former agents after the date of this publication will not be honored by nor be binding on **A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc.**, since said agents are now acting in their personal capacities, and no longer as agents of the A-Z Direct.

Notice is further given to the public of the following unreturned and/or improperly used **"ORDER AND PAYMENT FORMS"** wherein **A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc.** disclaims any responsibility:

00886-00890
02366-02370
04121-04125
06191-06195
06336-06340
08086-08090
09521-09525
09596-09600
10851-10855
11476-11480
11971-11975
11986-11990
12511-12515
12596-12600
13206-13210
13401-13405
13441-13445
13481-13485
14736-14740
14956-14960
15306-15310
15451-15455
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16211-16215
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16731-16735
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21581-21585
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21991-21995
22001-22005
22216-22220
22391-22395
22441-22445
22566-22570
22621-22625
22836-22840
22911-22915
22916-22920
22926-22930
22941-22945
23036-23040
23481-23485

Any subscriber owning the foregoing order and payment forms may visit **A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc.,** at its office at #723 Sgt. Bumatay Street, Plainview, 1550 Mandaluyong City, in order to clarify the matter."

(PDI – May 7, 2006)

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All PT's and RN's with or without Philippine License, Nurses with or without experience/NCLEX/CGFNS and Physical Therapists with or without experience/ NPTE *ARE ALL WELCOME TO APPLY.*

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The 1st Southern Tagalog Symposium on Developmental Disabilities

"AD/HD: Multidimensional and Multidisciplinary Issues and Perspectives"

May 18-19, 2006 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
The Bellevue Manila, Alabang, Muntinlupa

- AD/HD from Different Views
- Sensory Processing and Integrated Issues
- Social Skills Issues
- Challenging Behavior Issues
- Language Processing Difficulties
- Executive Skills Function
- Learning Problems

Speakers Include:

- Joel D. Lazaro, MD, DPPS, FPSDBP
- Abelardo Apollo I. David Jr., Mocc Thy, OTRP
- Arsenio S. Alianan, Jr., PhD

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- College grad.; female; single; comp. proficient
- Detail-oriented; organized; flexible; resourceful

SALES SECRETARY
- College grad.; female; single w/ pleasing personality
- Exc. communication skills & phone etiquette; comp. literate

SALES ENGINEERS
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- BS Acctg. grad.; female; pref. single; excellent team leader
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- BS Psychology grad. w/ at least 2 yrs. exp.; female; single

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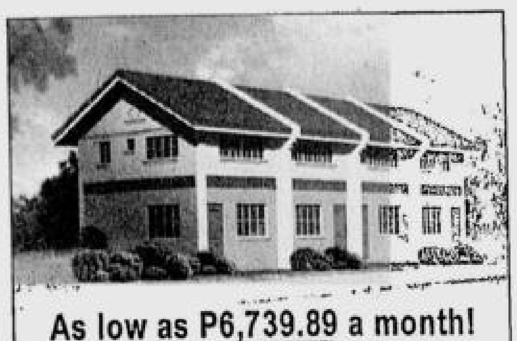

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice Is Given that the Estate of the late CONSTANTINO C.MAYOR has been extrajudicially settled among heirs Before NotaryPublic Romerico Espera of Quezon City as Per Doc No. 434,Page No. 87 Book No. VIII Series of 2006.
(PDI-Apr. 23,30&May 7,2006

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO SERRA ZULUETA JR has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Rudyard Arbolado of Makati City as Per Doc No. 372 Page No. 76 Book No 7 Series of 2006
PDI--April 30, May 7 & 14,2006

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SEAN JAMES M. VARGAS was extra-judicially settled with waiver as per Doc No. 41, Page No. 10, Book No 64, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.
(PDI-April 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALEJANDRA M. FLORES consisting of personal property was extrajudicially settled and distributed among her heirs VICENTE M. FLORES, DOMICIANO M. FLORES and JOSE M. FLORES by means of a public document executed on April 23, 2006 and ratified before Atty. ARLENE R. ABELEDA, Notary Public of Makati City as per Doc#10, Page#3, Book #2 Series of 2006.
(PDI-April 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HERNANDO M. SEVILLA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc 404 Page 81 Book II Series 2004 before Notary Public Cecile R. Gonzales-Yumul, Makati City
PDI-May 7, 14 & 21, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Rovin G. Asperilla who died on Aug. 26, 2000 has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public Hobart T. Cocadiz as per Doc. No. 514, Page No. 104 Book No. 06 Series of 2006
(PDI - April 23 , 30 & May 7, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate Estate of the late Jacobe Y Impenal was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement identified as per Doc. No 76, Page No. 17, Book No. XII Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Benigno M. Puno of Pasig City
(PDI-May 7, 14, 21, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO E. CALING has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 067; Page No. 14; Book No. I; series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Rona A. Albalos-Demetria of Pasig City (PDI-May 7, 14, 21, 2006)

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE WILFREDO L. CARILLO & HELEN CARILLO was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per DOC. NO. 153; PAGE NO. 31; BOOK NO. XV11; Series of 2005 by Notary Public Melina O. Tecson of Makati City
((PDI May 7, 14 &21, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is given that the HCBC Stock Certificate # 626 Preferred C with 10,000 shares under the name of LIWAYWAY HERNANDEZ was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued
(PDI – APRIL 30, MAY 7 & 14, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that LANDBANK Bonds with Serial Nos AR-0042612 and AR-0042577 under Palay, Inc. have been declared lost
(PDI-April 23, 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

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NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the following employees have resigned from Höegh Fleet Services Philippines, Inc.

1. ERWIN E. URSOLINO
(Effective April 4, 2006)
2. CELESTE A. DINGLE
(Effective April 24, 2006)

Any transaction entered into by the aforesaid employees on behalf of the Company shall not be honored.

(This Ad is in compliance with POEA requirement.)

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Revenue Region No. 8
Revenue District No. 44
Taguig and Pateros

PUBLIC HEARING

on
6th Revision of Zonal Values
Of Real Properties in
Taguig and Pateros

Date: May 12, 2006
Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Place: FDC Auditorium
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FTI Complex, Taguig City

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of ACR No. E069925 under the name of JOHNNY UMAGUING BATARA. Said documents was lost last April 4, 2006. If no contest contest received new certificate will be issued by the Bureau of Immigration
(PDI-May 7 & 14, 2006)

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BENEDICTO KALAW KATIGBAK

Husband of Presentacion Silva Katigbak (†)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 5, 2006 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his children **Cynthia** and **Vic**, **Tab** and **Beth**, **Willy** and **Annie**, **I.V.** and **Uling**, **Zalo** and **Nining**, **Stella** and **Wayne**; his brothers and sisters **Tony** and **Imelda**, **Justa** and **Mon**, **Lulu** and **Bobby**, **Tik-boy** and **Angge** (†); his grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

His remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills East.

In Loving Remembrance
on the First Death Anniversary of

EDUARDO BENGSON CUDALA

(September 26, 1930 - May 13, 2005)

His wife, nee **PACITA R. BENGZON**, and family members request relatives, friends, associates and the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness.

Masses will be offered on Saturday, May 13, 2006 at the following churches:

Epiphany of the Lord Parish *(Lingayen, Pangasinan)*	5:00 p.m.
Christ the King Parish *(Green Meadows, Q.C.)*	6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Chapel *(GSIS Village, Q.C.)*	6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish *(Greenhills, San Juan)*	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *(Bel-Air II, M.C.)*	6:30 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio *(Forbes Park, M.C.)*	6:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish *(Pinaglabanan, S.J.)*	5:30 p.m.
Mt. Carmel Shrine *(New Manila, Q.C.)*	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de Santo Cristo *(Blumentritt, S.J.)*	6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish *(Secaucus, N.J.)*	8:00 a.m.

"Jesus, I trust in You"

PRISCILA LEDDA COPUYOC

(July 19, 1922 – May 07, 2001)

Today is the feast day of our beloved Mother **PRISCILA**. Her children, **TITA, FRANCIS, JESS & MARIO** thank all of relatives & friends who touched her life. She now helps us thru her prayers. Masses will be celebrated in churches where **PRISCILA** partook of the **Holy Eucharist:**

Our Lady of Pentecost	9:30 a.m.
Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Q.C.	& 5:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Namacpacan, *Luna, La Union*	6:00 a.m.
Jesus of the Divine Mercy, *19 Spencer, Cubao, Q.C.*	7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Shrine, *Aurora Blvd., Q.C.*	7:30 a.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral *New York, Cubao Q.C.*	6:00 a.m.
Christ the King, *E. Rodriguez, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.

"... there is no other **Name** ... by which we may be saved." **(Acts 4:12)**

"Even
when I
walk
through a
dark valley,
I feel no
harm. For
you are at
my side,
your rod
and staff
give me
courage..."
Psalm 23:4

"There is an appointed time
for everything, and a time
for every affair under
the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Management and Staff

of

FORT BONIFACIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
and Affiliates

mourn the passing away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 1, 2006 of

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

Father of Joselito D. Campos, Jr., Chairman of the Board

His remains lie at the Sanctuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be offered daily at 7 o'clock in the evening.

On Monday, May 8th, after the 1 pm Holy Mass at
Sanctuario, cremation will follow.

Please omit flowers.

ESPERANZA UY DOROTAN

October 5, 1942 - May 6, 2006

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 64.

Her beloved husband **Roque Sr.**; children **Beya & Steve**, **Vic-Vic**, **Malou & Mike**, **Nono & Au**; grandchildren **Gayle**, **Shawn**, **Matthew**, **Cristina**, & **Isabelle** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Solace 2 Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City unitl May 8, 2006 and will be transferred to Irosin, Sorsogon on May 9, 2006.

Interment will be on May 15, 2006 at Irosin, Sorsogon.

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to cosole our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.
From the family of the late

Orlando "Orly" B. Venus

of Project 4, Q.C. & Bangued, Abra
who joined his Creator on April 24, 2006.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

RENATO C. ALARCON

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 31, 2006 wish to express our heaftfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who is countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

May 9, 2006 Forty Days

V. MAPA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.
V. MAPA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.
V. MAPA HIGH SCHOOL, MANILA

mourn the passing away in the Grace of Our Lord
on May 3, 2006 of

EMMANUEL E. KEMPIS

former principal of V. Mapa High School, Manila.

We condole with the family of the late Mr. Emmanuel E. Kempis. His mortal remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on May 9, 2006 (a.m.)
at Manila Memorial Park.

All V. Mapa High School alumni, faculty, non-teaching personnel, students and friends are enjoined to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Message of Appreciation

The bereaved wife, **Milagros G. Ramirez**; children **Jomil**, **Malou**, **Jojo** and **Jonjon**; daughters-in-law **Elaine** and **Sharron**; grandchildren, brothers and sister **Manuel** (†), **Salvador** (†), **Vincent**, **Rep. Justice Pete**, **Roman** and **Rosario**; sisters-in-law **Inday**, **Loleng** (†), **Visi**, **Eladia**, **Dolores**; nephews and nieces and relatives of the late

JOSE ALARAS RAMIREZ

of Balayan, Batangas & Calamba, Laguna

wish to convey their deepest gratitude
and appreciation to all those who offered Masses
and Prayers, sent flowers, kept vigil
attended the funeral rites and comforted them
in their hour of bereavement.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Management and Staff

of

GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

mourn the passing away
in the Grace of our Lord
on May 1, 2006 of

our Beloved Founder and Chairman Emeritus

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

His remains lie in state at the
Sanctuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati City.
On Monday, May 8th,
Holy Mass will be offered promptly
at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Please omit flowers.

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Marketing Convergence, Inc., an affiliate of the SM Group, is the developer, operator and manager of what is now the biggest customer loyalty program in the country - SM Advantage. To help cope with the rapid increase in SM Advantage membership, the company is in need of young, aggressive and highly competent professionals for the following positions:

IT DEPARTMENT

Oracle DBA

Responsibilities:

- Manage and maintain Oracle 9i and Oracle 10g database systems.
- Manage Data warehousing project.
- Provide expertise in creation and management of database tables and view.
- Support requirements for Ad-hoc data extraction as needed by the business.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of BS Computer Science, BS Computer Engineering or other related courses.
- Must have at least 2 years experience as an Oracle DBA.
- Proficient in Oracle PL/SQL and SQL*Plus.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.

Senior Systems Analyst / Developer

Responsibilities:

- Champion the development of applications for company's loyalty back-end system.
- Manage implementation of new loyalty back-end system modules.
- Assist in the day-to-day operations and management of the loyalty back-end systems.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of BS Computer Science, BS Computer Engineering or other related courses.
- At least 3 years experience in systems analysis and design.
- Proficient in Visual Basic Programming.
- Experienced in writing Oracle SQL* plus queries and developing Oracle PL/SQL scripts.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.

Senior Developer

Responsibilities:

- Develop Visual Basic applications needed for the company's internal use.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of BS Computer Science, BS Computer Engineering or other related courses.
- At least 3 years of experience in Visual Basic programming with integration to an Oracle RDBMS.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.

Oracle Developer

Responsibilities:

- Develop Oracle PL/SQL scripts and Oracle stored procedures.
- Write ad-hoc queries as needed by the company's business users.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of BS Computer Science, BS Computer Engineering or other related courses.
- At least 2 years of experience in writing Oracle SQL* plus queries and developing Oracle PL/SQL scripts.
- Having work background in credit card, debit card or loyalty card business is an advantage.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.

OLAP Developer

Responsibilities:

- Develop COGNOS PowerPlay and COGNOS Impromptu report.
- Develop Ad-hoc reports using COGNOS Impromptu as needed by the company's business users.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of BS Computer Science, BS Computer Engineering or other related courses.
- Has experience in report creation using report generation tools.
- Must know SQL
- Having first hand experience or knowledge of using COGNOS or Microstrategy is an advantage.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.

I.T. Admin Assistant

Responsibilities:

- Reports directly to the I.T. Head
- Organize and manage department files and records.
- Manage internal and external communications.
- Prepare forms and documentations.

Qualifications:

- Female, 21 to 25 yrs. old with pleasing personality.
- Having a degree in BS Computer Science or other related courses would be an advantage.
- Must be well organized, diligent and particular about details.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.
- No work experience required.

MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Sales and Marketing Manager

Responsibilities:

- Implement sales and marketing programs designed to increase SM Advantage membership base, maximize renewal rate, and improve member activity.
- Develop and build relationship with external companies for possible marketing tie-ups and other partnership opportunities.
- Coordinate with internal and external groups to ensure successful implementation of marketing projects.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any 4-year course.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Team player, with above average interpersonal skills.
- Mature, aggressive and goal-oriented.
- With relevant sales and marketing experience.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.

Marketing Coordinators

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any 4-year course.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Team player, above interpersonal skills.
- With experience in handling successful marketing programs.
- Computer literate with knowledge in basic MS Office or Lotus Smart Suite applications.
- Must be willing to work on a six-day workweek schedule.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resume with recent 2 X 2 photo and contact numbers to:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

MARKETING CONVERGENCE, INC.
Bldg. D SM Corporate Office1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park,
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Or Email at:
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Note: Please indicate your desired position upon submission of application.

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- ☐ Minimum 2 years experience in automobile sales
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- ☐ Valid driver's license
- ☐ Not more than 35 years old

2. Executive Assistant to the General Manager and Managing Director

- ☐ Business Administration, Marketing or HRD Degree
- ☐ Minimum 5 years work experience
- ☐ At least 2 years experience in personnel and general administration
- ☐ Not more than 35 years old

3. Marketing Assistant

- ☐ Business Administration or Marketing Degree
- ☐ At least 2 years work experience
- ☐ Not more than 35 years old

4. Service Technicians

- ☐ Male, 21-30 years old
- ☐ Degree in Mechanical Engineering or Automotive Technology
- ☐ At least 2 years experience in mechanical, electrical and aircon repairs
- ☐ Knowledgeable in troubleshooting and diagnosing of vehicles
- ☐ Valid professional driver's license

5. Parts Warehouseman

- ☐ Male, 18-30 years old
- ☐ Graduate of Automotive Technology
- ☐ At least 2 years experience in automotive parts warehousing and inventory procedures

6. Service Billing Clerk

- ☐ Female, 20-25 years old
- ☐ Business Degree, preferably in Accounting
- ☐ At least 2 years experience as Billing Clerk

7. Accountant

He/she shall be responsible for all Accounting functions including preparation of Financial Statements and other financial/management reports; preparation and filing of Tax Returns and other government reports; liaison with banks and regulatory bodies and fulfilling all Accounting and Auditing Standards

- ☐ Certified Public Accountant
- ☐ Well versed in accounting controls and systems
- ☐ At least 5 years experience as an Accountant or equivalent
- ☐ At least 5 years hands-on experience in using computerized accounting system
- ☐ Proficient in MS Office
- ☐ Experience in the automobile sales and dealership industry will be an added advantage
- ☐ Good English written and verbal communication skills

Please send your resumé to:

The General Manager
Motor Image Pilipinas, Inc.
C/o BMP Environment
12/F Pet Plans Tower
EDSA Guadalupe, Makati

Or e-mail to *enquiryph@motorimage.net*

EIMC

MARKETING MANAGERS

At least 2 years relevant experience in a brand/product management, marketing & sales (FMGC or multimedia/ entertainment a plus), with good creative presentation and negotiation skills, must be willing to do field work & passionate to acquire new business for the company, must be a strategic & analytical thinker, productive, has initiative, flexible, fast learner, enthusiastic & passionate. A Team player.

PRINT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Fluent in both English & Tagalog and can easily translate ideas/ concepts into knockout feature articles, press and product releases, proposals, etc. Solid contacts with top broadsheet paper & magazines (25-35 yrs old)

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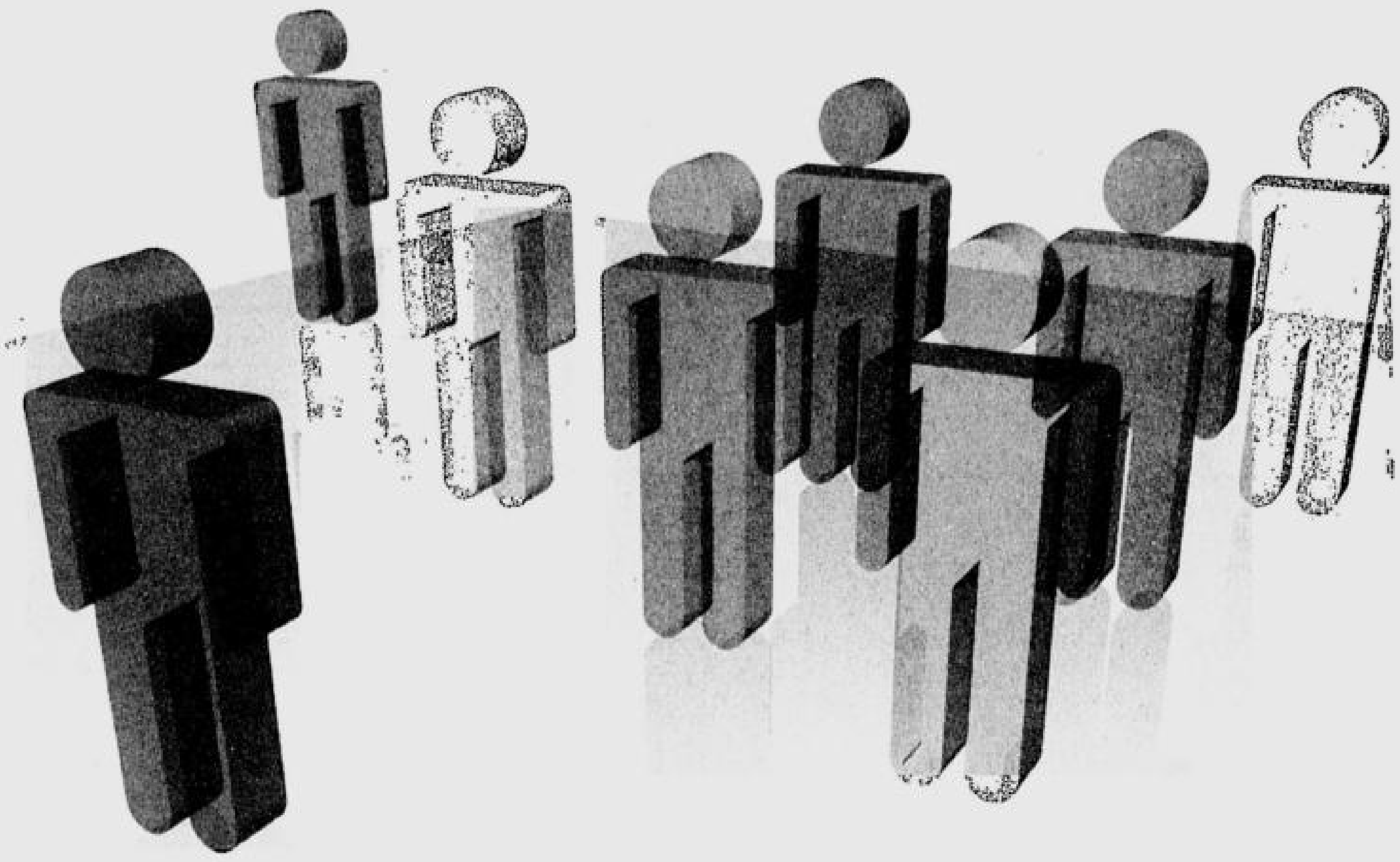

Senior Informatica Configurator

- Knowledge/Experience of Informatica Powercenter tools
- Knowledge of Scaling and Performance Tuning ETL Routines. (Experience with mapping directly to OLTP databases)
- Preferably knowledgeable of Analytics and/or Siebel OLTP Schema
- Understanding of data cleaning processes as part of ETL development

Siebel Configurators

- At least 4 years of solid experience in Siebel 7.0/7.5 (preferably in eFinance)
- At least 5 years in IT
- High proficiency in the use of Siebel Tools is required
- Extensive Siebel scripting experience is a must
- Good knowledge of Actuate reporting
- Expert in Siebel integration using EAI, Siebel Workflow and EIM.
- Knowledgeable in Java, Weblogic and Unix

Siebel Analytics Consultants

- At least 2 years of solid experience in designing and developing Analytics reports and dashboards
- At least 5 years in IT
- Extensive experience in defining Siebel Analytics business model and Datawarehouse Design
- 3 to 5 years of experience in Siebel 7.0/7.5 (preferably in eFinance).
- Knowledgeable in Informatica and other ETL tools
- Good knowledge of database design and datawarehousing

Java/J2EE Developers

- Strong object oriented programming skills with experience with Java, JSPs, XML, OOD and UML
- Preferably with at least 2 years experience in actual application development, analysis, design, construction, and implementation
- Must be a team player and able to lead a team as well
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, fast learner and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

.NET & C# Developers

- At least 1-2 year(s) of actual programming experience in C# and .NET
- High Proficiency with C# and/or VB.NET, XML, ASP.NET, MS SQL Server, Perl
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, fast learner and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills

QA/Test Analysts

- Must have at least 2 years experience in software testing/quality assurance using automated tools preferably Mercury Interactive tools (e.g., LoadRunner, WinRunner, Test Director)
- Experience in applications development under a full life project cycle an advantage.
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, fast learner and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Candidates with Oracle Applications (Financials/HRMS/Payroll) experience is also an advantage.
- Willing to working night shifts.

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Interested candidates can send their comprehensive resumes to:

Resource Management Unit
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Sen. Gil Puyat & Chino Roces Aves.
Makati City, Metro Manila

Or email to **recruitment@headstrong.com**
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or alternatively by e-mail to: philippines.web@teekay.com

About Teekay
Teekay Shipping transports more than 10 percent of the world's seaborne oil and has a significant presence in the liquefied natural gas shipping sector. With a fleet of more than 140 tankers, offices in 15 countries and approximately 5,100 seagoing and shore-based employees, we provide a comprehensive set of marine services to the world's leading oil and gas companies, helping them seamlessly link their upstream energy production to their downstream processing operations. Our reputation for safety, quality and innovation has earned us a position as The Marine Midstream Company.

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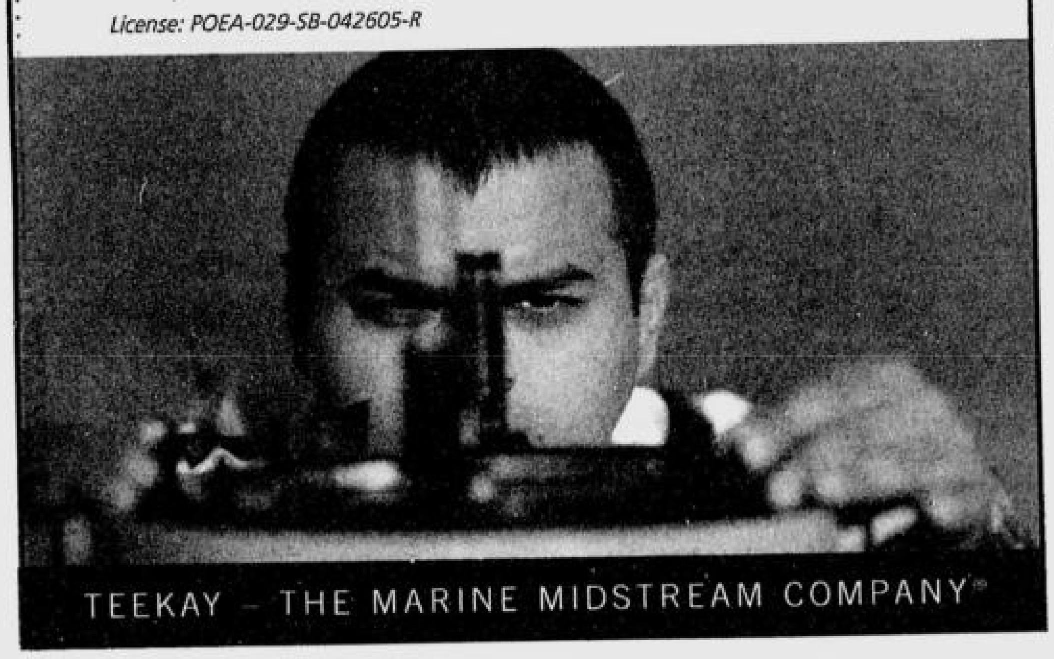
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STRADCOM

Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture at **HRAD SMC Bldg. LTO Compound East Avenue, Q.C.**
E-mail: lmcapulong@stradcom.net.ph

WEB DEVELOPER
Graduate of Computer Engineering, Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent. With at least 2 yrs. experience in the related field. Required skills: VB.NET, ASP.NET, C#,.NET

TECHNICAL WRITER
Graduate of English/Communication Arts. Not more than 30 years old. With at least 1 year work experience in technical writing in the field of IT. Required skills: knowledge on techniques of technical writing, editing, composition and layout of educational and technical publications, proficient in English grammar, punctuation, spelling and diction.

CONNECTIVITY OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Graduate of any related business and/or computer-related course or equivalent discipline. With at least 3 years in account management or customer relationship experience. Required skills: account management, strong customer focus, ability to interpret and communication technical information to business language, strong project and problem solving skills, ability to work in a fast-paced environment and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao)
Graduate of Technical/Management course. With at least 2 yrs in sales and marketing. Required skills: strong people handling skills, excellent communication skills, strong organizational skills, leadership and problem solving abilities, multi-tasking, can work under pressure. ***Willing to be relocated.***

BUSINESS ANALYST
Graduate of Industrial Engineering/ Industrial Management / Business Administration. With at least 1 year experience in the related field. Required skills: business process analysis, re-engineering, systems analysis and design. ***Fresh graduates are welcome.***

DATA SECURITY SPECIALIST
Graduate of Computer Engineering, ECE, / Information Technology. At least 3 years experience in IT Data Security Management. Required skills: LAN/WAN, Firewall, System and Database Security, Security Standard, Telco, Windows and Linux system security, anti-virus, change management, DRC planning.

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WELDERS

Welders Needed ----------- 50 pax

1. Carbon Steel, Low Temp. – Needed - 250 pax
2. Stainless Alloy – Needed - 250 pax

REQUIREMENTS

- Grad. of High School or Tech'l Course
- Age max 45 yrs old.
- Ex-abroad or B+ Trade test passers preferred.
- Able to speak, read & write English
- Min 5 yrs exp. with employment cert.
- Exp & Certified in GTAW, SMAW & FCAW (3G-6G).
- Knowledge in X-Ray/ Radiographic Destructive & Non-destructive test.

Interested applicants must prepare 2 sets of comprehensive resume with pertinent school / training, employment credentials & 6 pcs. Photo (2 x2) & apply personally at:

MORI INTERNATIONAL AGENCY CORP.

MAIN OFFICE
Units 1& 4 Colorado Bldg.
1334 F. Agoncillo St.
Malate, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No.(02)400-9024/523-6693

POEA Lic. 097-LB-042503-R

CEBU BRANCH
Rm. 208, LDM Bldg. Legaspi St.,
Cebu City, Philippines
Tel. No. (032) 253-6370
Fax.No. (032) 254-9084

E-mail Your Resume to: mori_applicant@yahoo.com
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Apply Online at: www.moriglobal.com

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EXPERIENCED FEMALE SALES EXECUTIVES

Products Prefer: CARPET TILES

Minimum 5 years Experienced Selling of Carpet Tiles

- College graduate
- Computer literate
- Possess good enthusiasm, willingness to learn, energetic, ability to work as a team

Successful candidates will paid basic salary plus commission and transportation allowance.

If interested apply at 2nd floor, Cancio Bldg.
1047 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City
Email your resumé to: **amy_gamba@yahoo.com**

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We are looking for the very best

SENIOR STYLIST

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Our final choice will have:

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- DISCIPLINED
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Please send your resumé to: The General Manager, Acqua Salon, Unit C-506 A Westgate Center, Filinvest-Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Tel. 771-1340 / Fax: 637-5763

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Positions	Qualifications
FACULTY MEMBERS Architecture College of Engineering: Chemical, Civil & Sanitary, Computer, Electrical, Electronics & Communications Marine Engineering & Transportation, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Information Technology Education Computer Science, Information Technology, Information Management College of Business Education Logistics Management Commerce major in Management Accountancy Humanities & Social Sciences: English, Filipino, Social Sciences Mathematics & Physics Physical Education	Holder of an appropriate Bachelor's Degree, with required license, with Master's Degree along undergraduate studies & field of specialization, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, full time/part time
DEAN, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology and Master's/Doctoral Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology, preferably with (3) years of satisfactory teaching experience in the tertiary level, with at least 3 years of satisfactory administrative/managerial experience, proficient in oral & written communication, of good moral character computer literate, full time
CHAIR, PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPT. (For QC Campus)	Holder of an aligned Master's Degree, with appropriate Professional License, preferably with at least three (3) years of satisfactory teaching experience and two (2) years of satisfactory managerial experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
HRD STAFF (For QC Campus)	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Guidance Counseling, Management or any Behavioral Science Course; good in oral and written communication; of good moral character; computer literate
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT (For Manila and Q.C. Campuses)	Holder of an aligned Master's degree in Engineering or Education, with appropriate Professional License, with experience as thesis adviser, proficient in editing researches, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate
ACCOUNTANT (For Manila Campus)	CPA, with work related experience, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character, computer literate, female
ACCOUNTING STAFF (For Manila and Q.C. Campuses)	Holder of a BS Degree in Accountancy, preferably with at least 1 year work experience, of good moral character, proficient in oral & written communication, computer literate, female
STAFF, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (For Quezon City Campus)	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in any field, with at least one year related experience, of good moral character; good oral and written communication; computer literate
CHEER LEADING DANCE COACH (For Manila Campus)	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education, at least three years related work experience, outstanding knowledge in cheer-dance choreography, proficient in oral and written communication, of good moral character
STAFF, CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE (For Quezon City Campus)	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in any field; of good moral character; good oral and written communication; computer literate
CHEM/PHYS LABORATORY ASSISTANT (For Manila Campus)	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering, of good moral character, good in oral and written communication, computer literate, male
LABORATORY ASSISTANT (Q. C. Campus)	Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering/ Electronics & Comm. Engineering or any related field, of good moral character, good in oral and written communication, computer literate, male

Interested parties who meet the above requirements may apply personally with their resume, ID picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at the:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Manila Campus
363 P. Casal St., Quiapo, Manila • Telephone No. 734-3631 loc. 224
hrd.manila@tip.edu.ph

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Quezon City Campus
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City • Telephone No. 913-5852
hrd.qc@tip.edu.ph

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*Preferably
*Acctg Grad./Female
*w/ working experience

Apply at:
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Escolta, Sta. Cruz, Manila
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THIS RARE SEMINAR could be the turning point of your salespeople in selling. Discover the unconventional tools and techniques that will help empower your people and enable them to become more productive. If your people will grasp even half of what will be taught in this session, there will be a remarkable change in their performance.

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The resource speaker for this seminar is Mr. Rene Espinosa, one of the country's top sales trainers and motivational speakers.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

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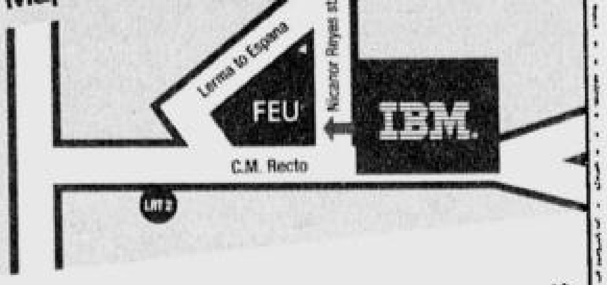
When : Mondays to Fridays
9 am to 6 pm

Map to our Recruitment Satellite Office



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- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support)
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  - HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin & English)

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Call center experience is an advantage

Support and Leadership Posts

- Deputy General Manager – Quality
- IT Operations Managers
- IT Project Manager
- Data Network Specialists
- Voice Network Specialists
- Systems Administrators
- Technical Support Engineers
- IT Helpdesk Associates
- Operations Managers
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- QA Manager – Six Sigma
- Manager - Events
- Deputy Manager - Communications
- Manager - EOC Branding
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Relevant call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

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Power English Now! is a training program given to applicants who are interested in working for IBM Daksh. It is designed to help improve one's English communication proficiency and equip them with the necessary skills needed to be employed as a Customer Care Specialist.

If you are interested in our FREE training program, you must undergo our assessment process so we can gauge your proficiency in oral and written English and recommend your appropriate training curriculum. You must meet our basic criteria to qualify for our 4-week language training program.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

MINING FOREMEN/SUPERVISOR FOR DEV'T & PRODUCTION

- Mining Engineers / Mine Foremen
- With at least five (5) yrs. experience in Development Production
- Not more than 35 years of age
- Good moral character
- Willing to be assigned in Zamboanga Sibugay Province

DEVELOPMENT MINERS & MUCKERS

- With at least five (5) yrs. experience in Conventional drill and blast, development driving of Shaft Adits, Crosscuts and the like
- Not more than 35 years of age
- Good moral character
- Willing to be bassigned in Zamboanga Sibugay Province

Interested applicants may submit their application letter, resumé with 2x2 recent photo before May 10, 2006 to:

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Manila Office Address : 10/F Unit 1007, Page 1 Bldg.
1215 Acacia Ave., Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No. 02-842-7403 / 842-9149
Fax No. 02-850-1147

Project Site : Km. 8, La Dicha, Malangas
Zamboanga Sibugay
Cel No.: 0926-871-2253
Fax No. 0919-547-0731

Attention to:
Ms. Mila M. Cuenca / Ms. Gina O. Ramos
Interview will be done on May 11-12, 2006 in Ayala Alabang Office

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Male or Female; Preferably an Engineering Graduate or any Business Course; 2-5 years of experience in Industrial Equipment Sales; excellent communication and presentation skills; has the ability to conceptualize and implement marketing and sales plans and strategies; self-driven, and bursting with enthusiasm.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Female; Preferably graduate of any Business Course; with one year minimum experience as executive assistant; excellent communication and coordination skills; between 20-25 years old.

Applicants are requested to send their updated resumé together with a 2x2 ID picture by postal mail at:

HROD 2307, The Orient Square
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
E-mail: pretty_me95@yahoo.com

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We are currently in need of a:

Testing Consultant (Part-time)
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Responsibilities:

- Will be in charge of administering tests, scoring and interpretation of results

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with Masteral units in Psychological Measurement
- Must have good written communication skills
- Must have experience in psychological testing
- Must be willing to travel to conduct mass testing for our clients (for Psychometrician position)
- Must be able to work quickly and be able to come up with test results/reports under a strict deadline
- Knowledgeable in MS Office applications

Pls. send resumés to cesi@nxdsl.com.ph
or to P.O. Box 160
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave.,
Makati City

corporate office team

Suite 1101 Medical Plaza Makati, Amorsolo cor.
dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati, M.M.
Tel Nos · 750-6138 to 40: 751-7303 to 04 • Fax. 751-7305

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- Able to work well whether alone or in coordination with groups, and when under time pressure.

The person we have in mind should be:

- Male or Female and not more than 30 years old;
- With at least three years experience in the same or similar position;
- Experienced in or exposed to research work, project studies or industry studies;
- Persevering, hardworking, meticulous, trustworthy, and pleasant to work with;
- Graduate of a 4-year course in Business, Economics, Math, Engineering or the Applied Sciences;
- Preferably with a Master's degree in Economics or Business Administration;
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We offer competitive compensation package, commensurate to qualification and experience.

Residents of Pasig, Marikina, Cainta, Antipolo, San Juan, Quezon City, and Cubao will find our location very accessible.

Direct written applications with full return address, contact numbers, resumé plus transcript, with 2 x 2 latest picture to

Human Resource & Administrative Department
P.O. Box 456 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT

☐ passed the CPA licensure exams
☐ knowledge in financial statement preparation & analysis/computer literate
☐ knowledge in government required remittances & renewals
☐ with at least one (1) year work experience
☐ should not be more than 35 years old
☐ good command of written & oral communication skills

The candidate will report directly to the president. She will be required to prepare reports vital to management decisions.

Contact person: Ms. Belinda
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
636-6327 to 29

ACCOUNT MANAGER, BU Specialty Chemicals Personal Care Category

Multinational Industrial Ingredients Distribution Company, with strong regional connections in South East Asia, well established for eight years in the Philippines, with offices situated in the Makati business district center, is searching for an **ACCOUNT MANAGER, Business Unit Specialty Chemicals, Personal Care Category** directly reporting to the Manager BU, Specialty Chemicals.

If you are looking for a challenging Industrial / Technical Sales and Marketing position, in the Personal Care Category and wish to form part of a dynamic group of professionals, we offer you this opportunity:

We require a person, between 28 - 32 years,
College graduate B.S. Chemical Engineering, B.S. Chemistry, and have a 2 - 3 years experience in a technical sales position.

These are our expectations:

- With strong commercial and business acumen, particularly in the industrial raw materials distribution field.
- Be energetic, creative, results-oriented
- Must have experience in the Personal Care raw materials field. (Surfactants, Conditioning Agents, Emollients, Micronutrients, and Active ingredients)
- Has the ability to manage a high volume of tasks while maintaining quality results.
- Have good analytical skills.
- Take initiatives to maximize and produce business growth in this category.
- Have the ability to work independently and be self-motivated.
- Show the right initiative to ensure to work through all levels in business partner contacts.
- Be well versed and have good oral and written command in English
- Be efficient and flexible; be able to meet tight deadlines.
- Has assertive interpersonal and communication skills
- Have the ability to achieve the desired results in a multi-tasking environment.
- Must be computer literate, MS Word / Excel / Powerpoint / Outlook
- Occasional domestic and regional travel within the South East Asia region will be required.

Competitive Salary package / Benefits / Bonus Scheme / Medical Card

Submit covering letter. Resume and personal contact details to:

Attention the BU Manager, Specialty Chemicals
BOX No. 159
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Ref: AMMC02/06

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A multinational company, engaged in cementing and stimulation services for oil and geothermal wells, has an immediate opening with the following qualifications:

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

1. Male, not more than 30 years old.
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3. Single, hardworking, willing to work flexible hours.

ENGINEER

1. Male, not more than 28 years old.
2. Engineering graduate (B.S.-M.E., Che., P.E.).
3. Preferably a board passer.
4. Related experience in oil or geothermal field, an advantage.
5. Willing to work flexible hours in the field.

Send your resumé and credentials to:

Human Resources Department
Room 302 Dowjones Bldg.
Km 19 West Service Road, South
Superhighway, Sucat, Parañaque City
Fax No.: 824-4211

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Medical Claims Encoders

- *Excellent Communication and Presentation Skills*
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- *Goal/Results-oriented*
- *Must be a Team Player*
- *Computer skills familiar with MS Excel and Word*
- *Professional Relationship Skills*
- *Medical background preferred*

Send resumé to

K&A Insurance Brokers, Inc.
Unit 6-0, 6th Floor,
Vernida 1 Condominium
120 Amorsolo Street,
Legaspi Village,
Makati City, Philippines
ATTN: Isabel Tolentino
Tel (632) 759-3122, 23 & 25
Fax (632) 759-3126
Email address:
raschnabel@globelines.com.ph

PERFUMES

PERFUMERIA ESPAÑOLA CORP.

An affiliate of Perfumeria Gal and Antonio Puig S.A. of Spain, makers of Heno de Pravia, Denenes and Maja brands, needs an:

ASSISTANT BRAND MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Marketing, Economics or related fields
- Must have 2 years work exposure in Brand Management for consumer or personal care products;
- With high degree of communication and human relation skills.

Brief Description of the Job:

- Formulate marketing plans and execute marketing programs for existing & new brands / products
- Prepare product sales budgets, forecasts & projections
- Analyze sales & market reports
- Launch brand / product programs, campaigns & special projects
- Maintain effective communication and close coordination with the sales distributor, merchandisers and customers

This is an **URGENT** requirement! Submit personally or send your resumé with photo and transcript of records to:

RECRUITMENT SECTION – GPPASD
4th Flr. Chemphil Bldg.
851 A. Arnaiz Ave. Legazpi, Makati City **or**
email us at: fureta@chemphil.com.ph

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- **ACCOUNT OFFICER**

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Send your resumé with picture to
recruitment@cpi-outsourcing.com

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A premiere IT Company is looking for:

SYSTEMS ENGINEER

Technical Skill requirements (at least 3 of them):

- Experience with development language C/C++, Visual Basic, ASP and XML
- Networking protocol LAN, WAN, TCP/IP and Token Ring
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- Database Administration using Microsoft SQL, ODBC, Access
- Component Technologies: OCX, Active X, COM, DCOM
- CRM Package (Siebel, Clarity, Vantive, etc)
- VoIP
- Voice Loggers, Call Center Quality Assurance, Screen Capture, etc.

Qualification:

- College Graduate (BSCompSci, BSCompEng, BSEE, BSECE, etc)
- 2 years experience is advantage, although fresh graduate is welcome
- Willing to travel around Asia Pacific: Hong Kong, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, etc.
- Willing to work at graveyard, weekends, and ready 24 x 7, if necessary.

Submit your application before May 20, 2006, with Resumé, copy of Transcript of Records, and copy of Diploma to:

AG Datacom Philippines, Inc.
Atlanta Center,
31 Annapolis St.,
Greenhills, San Juan
Attn: Ms. Rosalinda Molina
Administration Assistant

Or you may apply through email to **recruitment@agdatacom.com**

FT
FINANCIAL TIMES

The *FINANCIAL TIMES*, one of the world's leading sources of business news and information, is expanding its Manila operation and requires additional staff for its data production and accounting teams. The ideal applicants must meet the attributes and formal skills below and should be able to start as soon as possible.

INFORMATION EDITORS

- Be highly skilled in Adobe Acrobat, Quark Express or other desktop publishing software packages
- Had exposure to data production or computerized newspaper operation
- Have a good working knowledge of XML
- Excellent comprehension and English writing skills and a high level of attention to detail
- Able to work on a variable shift schedule including weekends and holidays
- Able to meet tight production deadlines
- Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- Previous experience working for a multinational company

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Graduate of BS Accountancy with good scholastic records
- At least 3 years work experience in receivables/payables management and bank transactions (local and overseas) for a multinational company
- Adept in using Sun accounting system
- Well-versed in MS Office applications, specifically intermediate Excel
- Excellent oral and written English skills, interpersonal skills and telephone etiquette
- Willing and able to work on variable shift schedule as required
- Responsible, motivated and can work with minimum supervision and as part of a team

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, May 12, 2006, to The HR & Administration Manager at the following address:

Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines Inc.
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Part-time and weekend slots may be available for Information Editors
Incomplete applications will not be processed

Visit our website www.ft.com

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A dynamic start-up quarterly magazine is seeking the following to occupy key positions:

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Good production management process and help shape the long-term direction of the magazine

- Plan and develop each issue and guide it to completion, ensuring deadlines are met ensuring accuracy of magazine content
- Minimum 3 years of relevant experience for a magazine or newspaper. Ability to work accurately and gracefully under deadline pressure, managerial skills
- Proven editorial skills, including writing, editing, and proofreading. Familiarity with Windows-based computers and graphics design software

CIRCULATION / DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

- Strong business management and leadership skills with at least 3 years of relevant experience
- Strong communication skills (verbal and written)

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVES

- At least one year experience in selling ads an advantage
- Salesmanship with strong presentation skills
- Ability to identify new advertising opportunities
- Relationship driven with strong customer service skills

We offer a competitive compensation package that includes commissions with a guaranteed base salary, comprehensive benefits and an exciting work environment and excellent opportunities for growth.

Please email resumé to: bgroupinc@yahoo.com

A prestigious HOTEL needs the ff.

• GENERAL MANAGER / RESIDENT MANAGER
Graduate of any related courses, w/ exp. in 5 Star Hotel
Male or Female; at least 10 yrs. work exp. in 5 Star Hotel

• ACCOUNTANT
Graduate of Accountancy / B.S. Commerce, Female, 24-30 y/o, with or w/o exp.; analytical & Self motivated

• FRONT DESK STAFF
TELEPHONE OPERATOR
Graduate of any related Course, Female 24-30 y/o, with exp. in Hotel; analytical & Self-motivated

• F & B SUPERVISOR
At least 10 yrs. exp. in Hotel; 28-35 yrs. old; Computer literate; Excellent Interpersonal Skills; Pro-active & a Team Player

• ARCHITECT / ENGINEER
Female, 23-28 y/o, w/ experience grad. Architect / C.E.

• COOK-INTERNATIONAL
with experience in 4 to 5 Star Hotel

* Attractive Compensation Package for qualified applicants *

Bring comprehensive resumé & transcript of records
at No. 14 N. Domingo St., Q.C.
(back of Broadway Centrum)
e-mail: info@swireland.com.ph

FortMED
MEDICAL CLINICS, Inc.

For Immediate Hiring

TWO (2) RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS

- Female, registered with 2 yrs experience
- Accredited training programs in 2D Ultrasound, Gen. X-ray, etc.
- Experience with 4D ultrasound is an advantage
- Excellent customer relations skills
- Computer literate
- Proficient in oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work with flexible schedule

TWO (2) MARKETING ASSTS.

(one to be assigned in Sta. Rosa, Laguna)

- Male or female with pleasing personality
- Graduate of a Marketing course or any related field
- Excellent customer relations skills
- With broad experience in sales and marketing
- Proficient in oral and written communication skills; computer literate
- 24 to 35 years of age

Submit resumé to:
Human Resources Department
Fortmed Medical Clinics
3F Equitable Bank Bldg., Paseo de Roxas cor.
Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
or send it thru e-mail at **hrd@fortmed.com.ph**

VIVA ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

VIVA ENTERTAINMENT, INC. is in need of dynamic individuals to fill up the following job vacancies:

LIAISON OFFICER (2 open positions)
MALE; graduate of 4 year course; 20-28 years of age; with experience in processing business permits and/or dealing with government agencies.
C&C ASSISTANT / OFFICER
MALE/FEMALE, Accounting graduate; knowledgeable in Accounts Receivables and other facets of Credit & Collection; willing to conduct fieldwork if necessary
MARKETING ASSISTANT
FEMALE; Graduate of Marketing, Communication Arts or any related course; smart & trainable fresh graduate are welcome to apply; marketing experience an advantage
INTEGRATED DISTRIBUTION SUPERVISOR
MALE; graduate of four year course, 28-35 years of age; has supervisory experience from an industry engaged in retail distribution, has Professional Driver's License with restriction code 2,3.
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE (Video City)
21-28 years old, MALE or FEMALE; graduate of a four year business course; a team player; can communicate well; w/ pleasent personality; willing to work on shifting schedules and willing to be assigned to stores within Metro Manila.

Interested applicants may personally submit their
Comprehensive Resumes with 2x2 pictures to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
6/F East Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Centre,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

CCF PHILIPPINES

An International NGO Working for the Well-Being of Children

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is an international non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian child development agency that operates in over 30 countries. It has been working in the Philippines for over thirty years now implementing programs in the areas of basic education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, micro-enterprise development and emergency programs. In partnership with various community-based organizations, CCF Philippines assists more than 216,000 children and their families.

It is currently seeking development professionals to take on the role of **Area Monitors** in the following areas where CCF-assisted programs are located:

Area Monitor 1	**(Bicol, NCR, Estern and Central Visayas)**
Area Monitor 2	**(Western Mindanao, Western Visayas and Cagayan de Oro)**
Area Monitor 3	**(Southern and Central Mindanao)**

The overall responsibility is to supervise and monitor programs implemented by partner institutions in the identified areas ensuring that objectives and targets are achieved as planned. The Area Monitor is also expected to take the lead in building capacities of project staff in program planning, development, monitoring and evaluation.

Reporting to the Program Manager, successful candidates will be part of the country office's program team, combining both strategic and hands-on skills to build CCF's strong track record and commitment to addrressing child poverty in the Philippines.

Successful candidates must have the following qualifications:

- ☐ University Degree in Social Science or related field
- ☐ At least 3-5 years meaningful and progressive experience in development work and program management cycle; involvement in community-based programs/projects preferred
- ☐ In-depth understanding of national and international issues on children
- ☐ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☐ Willing to travel more than 50% of the time
- ☐ Can work with minimal supervision and perform effectively under pressure

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated according to qualifications & experience.

Interested applicants may send their application letter addressing the position criteria outlined here together with detailed Curriculum Vitaé with 3 references & contact details to ccftpo@ccfphilippines.org.ph not later than May 17, 2006. Applications can also be posted to CCF Philippines, 8th Floor Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we shall only contact shortlisted applicants.

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8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

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- Detail-oriented and able to examine specific mechanisms of an on-line legal research system for extended periods of time
- Willing to start at any entry-level Legal Product Tester position, on the way up to a Legal Editor position
- Willing to work the hours equivalent to a full-time position
- Able to work in a fast-paced global environment

HR & ADMIN MANAGER

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Human Resource Management, Personnel Administration, Psychology, Behavioral Science or equivalent.
- Well versed in HR Policies and programs, Wage & Salary Administration, training, employee development, labor laws and policies.
- Fluent in English and must be excellent in both oral and written communications.
- With a strong personality, articulate and diligent.

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- Management skills to be able to deal with local teams and US clients.
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- Ability to generate and analyze management reports.
- Fluent in English and must be excellent in both oral and written communications.

Qualified applicants apply personally ASAP at:
4/F Wardley Building, 1991 Taft Avenue cor., San Juan St., Pasay City
Come with your Resume, Transcript of Records, 1x1 ID picture, SSS no., & TIN,
Monday to Friday, 8am - 4pm
Applicants can also submit resumes to: personnel@sencor.net
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This requirement is good until May 31, 2006

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(Animal Health Business Unit)

The Veterinary Representative is responsible for the achievement of territory's sales & marketing objectives in line with the Animal Health Business Unit's global & local purpose.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Veterinary Medicine or B.S. in Agriculture major in Animal Science and other related courses
- Must be in possession of a professional driver's license
- Willing to travel to be relocated to provincial territories (North Luzon)
- Ideal candidates must possess excellent communication skills, must be adaptable to a dynamic & fast paced environment, customer oriented and committed to

Interested applicants may send their resumé to
Novartis Healthcare Philippines, Inc.
2/F Asian Reinsurance Bldg.
Gamboa cor. Salcedo Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City or e-mail to
novartis-phil.phphma@novartis.com

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(Ask for Nela)
info@workbeyondborders.com
www.wwceusa.com

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CHIEF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

- Graduate of B.S. Medical Technology, preferably with Masters/advanced degree
- At least 5 years experience as CMT in a tertiary laboratory set-up
- Strong supervisory/managerial skills; strong service-orientation & customer service skills
- Preferably with experience in ISO Accreditation

COURIER SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of any course; At least 5 years experience in the same capacity
- Well-versed of the streets of Metro Manila & nearby provinces (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal)
- Strong supervisory skills; strong service-orientation; development-oriented
- Flexible and trustworthy

Send your letter of intent and resumé to

AMERICAN BIO-CLINICAL LABORATORIES INT'L
L/G Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park
Muntinlupa City
8506287; abclabs_mktg@skyinet.net

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

VACANT POSITION

POSITION : **DIRECTOR III** (1 vacancy)
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT : FINANCIAL SERVICE
ITEM NUMBER : OSEC-DOEB-DIR3-6-2002
SALARY GRADE : 27
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION : BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, COMMERCE PREFERABLY WITH MASTER'S DEGREE
EXPERIENCE : 3 YEARS OF SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE
TRAINING : NONE REQUIRED
ELIGIBILITY : CAREER SERVICE EXECUTIVE ELIGIBILITY (CSEE) or CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE (CES) RA 1080 (CPA)

All application letters and comprehensive resumés with passport size picture should be submitted to the Human Resource Management Division, Administrative Service, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, with telephone numbers 8401401-21 loc. 354 or 217 and e-mail address **ebalaoing@doe.gov.ph** not later than 22 May 2006.

Montessori de San Juan

#3 Montessori Lane, San Juan, Metro Manila

We are a Montessori School and at present in need of

Grade School and High School Teachers

Qualified Applicants we need must be:

1. AB, BS, or BSE graduate major in Social Sciences, English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Science, and Music & Arts Physical Education.
2. Preferably a holder of a Professional Teacher's License.
3. Have a good command or written and spoken English
4. Be willing to adopt Montessori Principles and Techniques in his/her approach to teaching. In-training pointers will be given to those who will qualify.

Interested applicants must present their curriculum vitae, xerox copy of Transcript of Records and letter of recommendation from the school head (for new graduates) or former employer.

Letter of application should be accompanied by a recent photograph and addressed to:

The Principal
Montessori de San Juan
No. 3 Montessori Lane
San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 725-26-92 / 725-63-06/725-62-90

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Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo
St. Legaspi Village,
Makati City
(02)857-7788

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7688

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone,
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

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1150 España Boulevard
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OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier Internet service providers get back online.

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Responsible for operational and program performance at the site by managing cross - functionally and leading all business units to meet established objectives

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RECRUITMENT ASSOCIATE (Alabang)

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POSITION : **Finance and Administrative Officer**

A2Z Project/The Philippines

The A2Z Project is a multi-country USAID-funded project providing technical assistance and expertise to strengthen and implement micronutrient programs to improve the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations. A2Z in The Philippines will work with national and local government institutions, partner NGOs, private sector and research institutions to integrate micronutrients into a range of health programs. The Manila-based Financial and Administrative Officer is responsible for managing project finance/accounting and administrative operations, including project expenses, financial reports, budgets, personnel management, and office administration

Required : Degree/diploma in business management, accounting, finance, or related; At least 5 years experience financial management; fluency in English.

Preferred : Knowledge of USAID procedures and regulations; Quickbooks experience; ability to travel to project field sites; and experience with international project a plus. Submit cover letter and resume by May 10, 2006 to Academy for Educational Development, 8/Flr. Ramon Magsaysay Center, Roxas Boulevard, Malate 1004, Metro Manila, Attention: Office Manager; email: a2z-philippines@aed.org. No phone calls will be honored.

PAN PACIFIC
Manila

Pan Pacific Manila, the only 5-star De Lute Hotel in Manila known for its Butler Service, is in need of dynamic individuals for the following positions:

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- A licensed Mechanical Engineer, preferably PME
- With minimum three years working experience in a similar position in a Hotel
- Successfully apply creative analytical problem-solving skills to complex mechanical challenges.
- Good Leadership Skills

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

- Abreast with global and local food service trends
- Has the ability to create, coordinate, teach and implement F&B competencies, F&B promotions and functions
- College Degree
- Male or female with 3 years of extensive experience in the same position

The Hotel offers an attractive compensation package for the above mentioned managerial positions ranging from P45,000.00 – P55,000.00 per month (inclusive of service charge).

TRAINING/EDUCATION OFFICER

- Has extensive experience on similar position gained from the hotel or a similar industry
- Can effectively design, conduct, evaluate and monitor the implementation of training and education programs
- Has knowledge of human resources operation functions
- Graduate of any four-year course with excellent communication skills and above average facilitation skills

JAPANESE GUEST RELATIONS OFFICER

- Outgoing and flexible candidate preferably with experience in a five star property
- Must have an exceptional personal presentation
- Fluent in Japanese and English both written and spoken
- Graduate of any four-year course, preferably female

COST CONTROLLER

- Exposure in cost control and inventory management experience in a hotel or restaurant
- With experience in MICROS functions
- Team player, results oriented, systematic, willing to work long and extended hours and patient
- Graduate of Accounting/Accountancy or related course
- CPA preferred but not required

The Hotel offers an attractive compensation package for the above mentioned supervisory positions ranging from P30,000.00 – P40,000.00 per month (inclusive of service charge).

AIRCON TECHNICIAN

- Knowledgeable in handling central airconditioning system, preferably TRANE units
- Has experience in repair and maintenance of kitchen equipments
- Graduate of a two-year course in industrial electricity or any related vocational program

BUTLERS

- At least six months working experience, very much determined and has a service mindset
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, knowledge of a third language is an advantage
- Male or Female not more than 28 years old and graduate of any four-year or two-year course
- Physically Fit and has a trained eye for details

The Hotel offers an attractive compensation package for the Butler position ranging from P20,000.00 – P25,000.00 per month (inclusive of service charge).

Mail your comprehensive resume to
The People Innovation & EducationTeam
M. Adriatico St., cor. Gen. Malvar St. 1004 Malate, Manila

Please send it your applications to pi.mnl@panpacific.com
Telephone inquiries will not be entertained. Only short listed applicants will be notified.

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Pastry Chefs
Marketing Supervisors
Kitchen Managers & Staff
Dining Staff & Hostesses
Maintenance Man
Acctg. & Admin Staff

Requirements:
☑ Experience in similar capacity – At least 2 yrs.
☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
☑ 18 to 35 years of age

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☑ Attractive salary and fringe benefits
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Interested parties may send their resumé to:

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- Must have good leadership qualities to handle sales representatives and staff
- At least 3 years experience in dealing with supermarkets, CVS, groceries, and other retail channel
- Must be highly motivated and action-oriented
- With sufficient background in sales, forecasting, and planning
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- Advance user of Email & Internet

MARKETING ASSISTANT (3) (Female)

- Fresh graduate or at least two years experience in trade marketing activities involving semi-perishable imported consumer goods
- Computer literate (knowledge in Photoshop & Corel a plus)
- Graduate of BS Marketing
- Excellent organization talent
- Must be between 22-30 years old
- Good character and hardworking
- Excellent level skills in design of complex software applications
- Able to take control of a project on your own

SALES REPRESENTATIVE (15) (Male/Female)

- At least three years experience in selling semi-perishable imported consumers goods to supermarket, groceries, drug store, etc.
- Must not be more than 30 years old
- Must be hardworking, mature, assertive, and highly personable with strong salesmanship skills
- Computer literate in MS Office knowledge
- Understanding of business logic such as payment handling and proper product distribution
- Strong communications, listening, facilitation and negotiation skills

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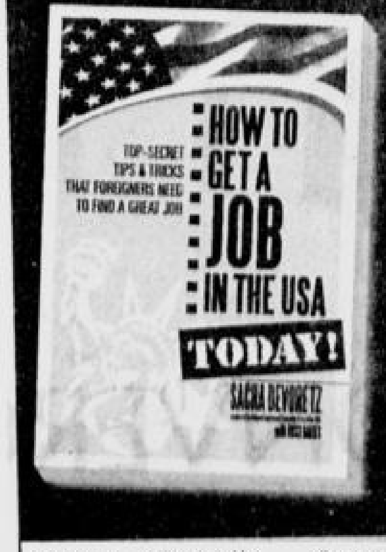
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- Female not more than 30 years old
- Work experience in the same field is an advantage
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- With pleasing personality

Walk-In Applicants are welcome from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Tuesday and Thursday for interviews.

Applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo and contact numbers to:

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Mandaluyong City 1550
c/o Mr. Art Matutina
or email: new_asia_blends@yahoo.com.ph

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PROJECT SUPERVISORS (CE, AR or EE), preferably licensed with at least five (5) years experience in building construction

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SAFETY OFFICERS, preferably college graduates, experienced in safety and risk management procedures in construction

Please send resumé to **JDBEC, INC.**
Room 511 Dona Felisa Syjuco Building,
Remedios St., cor. Taft Ave.,
Malate, Manila
Email address: jdbec_inc@yahoo.com

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ACCOUNTANT
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MAINTENANCE ENGINEER
- 2-3 yrs experience in equipment installation & maintenance
- Male, Mechanical or Engineering graduate

CREATIVE MEDIA PLANNER
- Creative ability to sequence various videos professionally
- Female, Mass Communication or Advertising graduate
- Good command of verbal & written English
- Fresh Graduates may apply

SALES / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Male/Female, 1-2 yrs experience
- Marketing, Mass Communication, Advertising graduate or related course

Submit your resume w/ 2x2 photo, Transcript of Record, Employment certificates & NBI Clearance
Unit 174, 17/F Columbia Tower, Ortigas Ave.,
Mandaluyong City

WANTED

2 HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

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FILIPINO

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Bring your credentials to:

Joseph & Mary Academy
Rainbow Avenue, Pacita Complex 2
San Pedro, Laguna
Tel. No. 847-48-09

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- must possess good communication skills

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AIG member companies serve commercial, institutional and individual customers through the most extensive worldwide property-casualty and life insurance networks of any insurer. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management. The common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the stock exchanges in London, Paris, Switzerland and Tokyo.

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG-BPSI) is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company serving the needs of AIG American General Life Insurance Companies.. AIG-BPSI invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

Business Processing Specialists

You will be reporting to the Team Leader and will be responsible to perform and complete process transactions according to prescribed standards and ensure that quality requirements are achieved.

Job Requirements:

- Graduate of any four-year course preferably in the medical field
- Excellent verbal and written English communication skills
- Can perform multiple tasks accurately and independently
- Above average analytical skills
- Ability to make sound decisions under pressure and work effectively in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to analyze and interpret medical terminology
- Willing to work in the night shift

Call Center Specialists

You will be reporting to the Call Center Team Leader and will be responsible for handling customer inquiries, providing general information on the company's products and services and processing requests of customers to update policy information.

Job Requirements:

- Graduate of any four-year course
- Excellent verbal and written English communication skills
- Can perform multiple tasks accurately and independently
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills
- Excellent listening skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work in the night shift

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E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you get back in the workforce after having a baby?

DEAR WW: MY KID IS ABOUT to start school and I'm ready to get back into the working world. But it's been a long time since I've had a job. Help!

Not Kidding

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

When I read your e-mail I thought of Emily Katrencik. She's an artist who recently spent 30 minutes a day, five days a week gnawing on sections of drywall at an art gallery. Ever wonder what goes through someone's head while she's munching on drywall? Emily says the thought about "the things in the wall that are good for me, like calcium and iron."

Like Emily, you've got to be prepared to gnaw through all the objections that potential employers will have about your effort to reenter the workforce. Also like Emily, it helps to remember there are parts of the process that can be good for you—doing interviews, answering tough questions and proving that you have the mettle to do the job. I've listed more strategies to help you get a job after your baby, or any other long term gap from work, below. For more, check out Quigley and Kaufman's book, "Going Back to Work" (St. Martin's Griffin, 2004).

Can you avoid apologizing for your time away? You wouldn't apologize if you had received a research fellowship or gone on a round the world cruise. So don't apologize for having a baby. In fact, turn it to your advantage by pointing out all of the work-related skills you'd perfected during your time away from the office: how you coordinated projects, managed resources, etc.

Do you know what you want to do? Employers don't know how to handle people who are still sorting out what they want to do when they grow up. Talk to people doing the kinds of jobs that you want to do so you go into all interviews with a good idea of what the job entails.

Do you talk to strangers? Not talking to strangers is sage advice for your kids. But it's a terrible way to approach your career. It's important to talk to everyone you can about what they do and who they know. You never know where a great nugget of information or a great lead may come from

Are you able to talk about yourself? It's important to remember that most employers want to see a level of confidence in the people they hire. So do some practice interviews with people you know who have hired people in the past so you can be in shape when you actually start talking to an employer.

Are you comfortable discussing money? Having been out of the workplace for a while, it can be tough to dive into a negotiation over the terms of your employment. That's why it's important to know from the start what compensation you want and to be prepared to fight for it.

Hopefully, these tips will help you gnaw through the objections that get thrown your way in your next job interview.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Nursing student looks for right career

I'M 18 YEARS OLD, MALE AND a first year student. My problem is that I don't like the course I'm taking and don't see myself as a nurse, ever. I'm taking this course because my parents and my eldest sister who is financing my studies are putting pressure on me to become a nurse because they want me to work in the United States and earn plenty of money.

Another problem is that I don't have any strong inclination towards any career. In high school I did not make good in any subject. I was just an average student getting passing grades. How will I know in what career I will do good, considering that I'm just average?

Bewildered Student

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Parents have good intentions for their children but such intentions often lead them to impose their needs and their values on their children. Making career choices for children is common among Filipino parents who sometimes "use" their children as a means to improve the family's social status and financial condition.

On the other hand, children who are confused and undecided on what career to choose, open themselves to being influenced, if not controlled by, their parents, and sometimes by their peer group or barkada.

Since you have no strong inclination towards any subject and no work experience to use as criterion for making a career choice, the first step you have to take is to know your career interests and aptitudes. Your career interest will determine what you find enjoyable based on the tasks it involves while your aptitudes are your natural abilities/capacities for learning certain skills. Your career choice should be based on these two important factors; namely, your interests, and aptitudes and also your mental abilities. Later, you also consider external factors like your family's financial capacity to support your career choice, the likelihood of getting a job is the industry and organization where you want to work, etc. Then, you identify the educational program or college course that will prepare you for this career.

Interests and aptitudes

The following questions can help you determine your interests and aptitudes: What do I enjoy or like to do? What are my preferences or inclinations? What courses in high school and college did I enjoy (for the subject matter and not because of the teacher)?

Dr. John Holland classified interests into six: artistic, conventional, realistic, investigative, social and enterprising. Each one of us may have two to three combinations of interests. For example, to succeed in sales, a person must have enterprising, realistic and social interests. An accountant should have conventional and investigative interests. A healthcare professional, like a nurse, must have social, investigative and conventional interests. Please see inset on "Find your interest, find the right career," which is adapted from Dr. Holland's model.

Making a career choice

The process of making a career choice involves the following steps:

1. Identify your career interests and aptitudes and know your mental abilities.

2. List down possible careers that fit your interest, aptitudes and mental abilities.

3. Choose the best career from number 2 above that is closest to your heart. This will require valid information from persons you know (relatives and friends of your family) and who are actually in that career.

4. Identify the college course or educational/training program that will prepare you for that career.

There are three levels you may consider depending on your mental abilities and your family's financial capacity:

a. Vocational level

b. Technician level (usually 2 years after secondary education)

c. Professional level (requiring college degree)

5. Pass all your subjects, and get more than average grades in your major subjects. If you enjoy your major subjects, this will validate your career interests and aptitudes.

6. Determine the industry where you would like to work, e.g., healthcare, banking and financial institutions, call center, information and communication technology, hotel and restaurants, etc. The industry will determine the working conditions and whether these will suit your needs and your values. Example of working conditions are working hours, level of control/empowerment given, working position, location, and rewards and challenges.

7. Identify the companies/organizations in your chosen industry.

8. Know the entry jobs in your chosen career available in the organization. Apply for these entry jobs.

Do not accept any job that is opened and offered to you by the company. This will likely change your career path and you are back to "Square 1" so to speak.

Choosing the right career may require you to seek the help of your school's guidance counselor who may have standardized interests, aptitudes and mental abilities tests that you can take, and who, more importantly, may provide you with career counseling.

Once you have made up your mind on what career is for you, you can assertively tell it to your parents and your eldest sister. Perhaps, they will allow you to take the college course that fits your career choice so that you can be successful and happy. God bless you.

(Dr. Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc. She has a Ph.D. in psychology and is a practicing psychologist, counselor, management consultant, executive coach and mentor. For more information of carers, visit www.careersystems.com.ph.)

Find your interest, find the right career

Adapted by Dr. Josie O. Santamaria

INTERESTS CAN BE CLASSIFIED into the following ways:

- **Artistic**. People with artistic interests like to work in unstructured situations, using their imagination and creativity. They enjoy situations that allow them freedom to be original. They are unhappy if they have to follow rules and procedures. They are intuitive and innovating. Work in the artistic area involves the use if physical, verbal or human materials to create art forms or products. Artistic people are suited to career-related language, art, music, drama, writing, photography, dancing, designing and other creative pursuits. If you have artistic interests, you should avoid being in a conventional career.
- **Conventional**. People with conventional interests enjoy working with data such as words and numbers. They like to carry things out in detail or follow through on others' instructions. They like to work in structured environments where things are laid out for them to implement and follow through. They have numerical, administrative, or clerical abilities. They like activities that involve the precise, ordered use of data such as keeping records, filing materials, organizing, computing and systematizing numerical and written data. They are likely to operate business machines and use office equipment, work inside an office, sit most of the time, do a lot of paper work in a short period of time, or keep accurate records. Accounting, credit and collection, airline and hotel reservations, data processing, clerical and secretarial jobs fit the conventional person. If you are a conventional person, you should avoid the artistic and social careers.
- **Realistic**. People with realistic interests enjoy creating things and using their hands and working with tools, objects and machines or with plants or animals. They like to work outdoors or field work. They usually want to work by themselves. They have athletic and mechanical abilities. This interest finds expression in agriculture, forestry, engineeringand technical fields, photography, sports, jewelry making, and garment making. If you have realistic interests, you should avoid artistic, social and enterprising careers.
- **Investigative**. People with investigative interests enjoy obtaining data through research and analyzing and evaluating data to solve problems. They like activities that involve gathering data from the exploration and examination of physical, biological, behavioral, and cultural events to understand and control them. They prefer to work alone rather than with others. They work best in careers relating to science, mathematics, law, economics, and dentistry. If you have investigative interests, you should avoid artistic, social, enterprising careers.
- **Social**. People with social interest like to work and interact with people to inform, enlighten, help, train, develop or cure them and are skilled with words. They are patient in explaining things to others, feel competent in dealing with old and young people and generally like to work with others. They are interested in the problems and concerns of others. They would succeed in careers related to teaching, education, guidance and counseling, healthcare, human resources and training, behavioral sciences (psychology/sociology), nursing, therapy, foreign service, and priesthood or ministry. If you have social interests, you will be unhappy in the investigative, realistic and conventional careers.
- **Enterprising**. People with enterprising interests like also to work with people—to influence, persuade, perform, lead or manage them to achieve organizational goals or for economic gain. They have energy and enthusiasm, are good at getting other people to do things for their own or others' benefit, and enjoy leadership, interpersonal and persuasive activities. Management, sales and marketing, business, media and broadcasting and politics are examples of careers that will delight people with enterprising interests. They should, however, avoid investigative and artistic careers.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

A different hireling

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IF THE "HIRED MAN" IN TODAY'S GOSPEL would be found in the contemporary workplace, he would probably be a manager or a supervisor who works for the money and money alone, period. *Walang malasakit, walang pakialam,* as his people might call him. When threatened by someone or something in his job, he flees, deserting his subordinates and responsibilities as well. Motivated by pure selfishness, he wouldn't go the extra mile for the love, for work, or love of work. In short, he couldn't care less.

Well—we might conclude—that's what usually happens when one works for the money. "Usually," yes, but not necessarily always. We would be judging hastily if we said people who work for the money always deliver mediocrity. There do exist "hired men" who are indeed motivated by money but who do give excellent performance. They are not the irresponsible hirelings who do not give a hoot as long as they get paid. Money may be their strongest reason for working but by no means the only reason behind their drive. With bills to pay, mouths to feed, minds to educate, and loved ones to clothe and shelter, they are clearly in dire need of work; thus, they strive to become better and more principled workers to stay employed. Being a "hired man" means one is paid money to do a job, but not everyone who makes money out of his job becomes a slave of money. When fear of God and the care and welfare of loved ones are the underlying motivation in a person who "works for the money," money becomes a tool for creativity and fulfillment. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_ manila@yahoo.com)

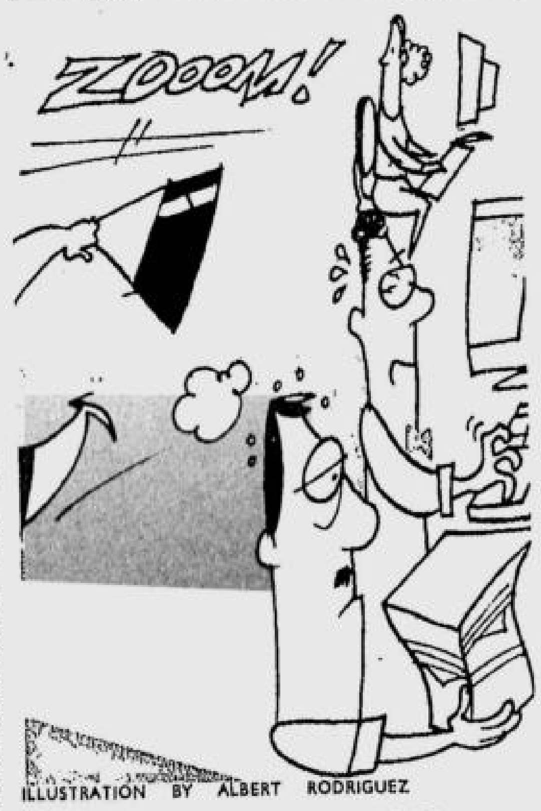


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: John 10: 11-18

A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them.

Not for hire

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN GIVING MOTIVATIONAL SEMINARS FOR teachers, I wouldalways try to make them understand that teaching is not just work and a profession but also a way of life and a vocation—a call from God and our response to His invitation. Those who accept this point of view could easily identify themselves as educators—persons assisting the students towards human maturity—rather than just mere teachers putting ideas and knowledge in the minds of the young. They would also give more importance to showing their students examples of good living than just impressing on them scientific theories or technological information or innovation. In the words of Jesus, they would be "shepherds" for the students (sheep) and not just "hired" professionals.

These considerations are also applicable to anyone in any profession or job. A worker whose reason for working is only the pay and material benefits would rather calculate his time and energies in proportion to the compensation package than pour out his whole self into the work. He would not be too willing to risk his life on the job nor would he think that his work contributes also to the welfare and growth of the larger society than just his company or his employers.

But one who works not "for hire" but for "love of God" would certainly go beyond the requirements of the job contract; he would look at his work as God's will for him, would do his job as a concrete way of thanking God for his life and energies, and would strive to do good in his profession as his way of life. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Join the World HR Congress in Singapore

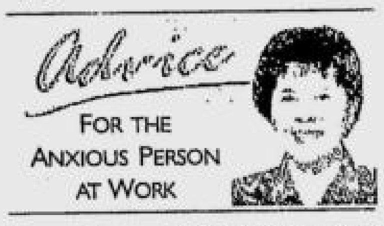
THE 11TH WORLD HR CONGRESS & Business Connect Exposition will be held in Singapore this year from May 29 to June 1 with the theme "Powering Human Capital." The Congress seeks to address key organization and people issues through the sharing of new insights and solutions by internationally renowned speakers, business leaders and practitioners on the best practices from organizations around the world. All sessions promise to be highly interactive, interspersed with discussions, debates and cross sharing. The Congress also provides delegates with immense opportunities to learn, share and network across the globe. The plenary sessions speakers and topics are the following:

- Mr. Jeffrey A. Joerres, chairman, CEO and president of Manpower Inc., Topic: A Global Imperative: Do we know what we are doing? (Optimizing and Engaging Your Total Workforce)
- Lyonpo Jigmi Y Thinley, honorable minister for Home and Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan, Topic: The State of Mind and Heart: Are happy workers productive workers? (Gross National Happiness Index)
- Prof. Wee Chow Hou, professor of Strategy, Management and Organization, Nanyang Business School, Topic: Emerging Asia: How can we strategize HR better? (Competition Among Cities Implications for HR Practices)
- Mr. Alan Webber, founder, Fast Company USA and Mr. John Anderson, president, Levi Strauss Asia Pacific Division, Topic: Driving Corporate Innovation: Why the HR Profession has not got it yet" (The Idea Factory presents: Innovation Theater—CEOs Insights)
- Prof. Dave Ulrich, professor, University of Michigan, Topic: Can we truly reinvent ourselves? Where do we start? (HR Value Proposition)

For more details about the 11th World HR Congress Singapore, visit www.hrcongress2006.com. For inquiries, call the 11th World HR Congress Secretariat at (65) 6438-0012 or e-mail hrcongress2006@shri.org.sg.

‘I want to improve my English for call center

By Tita Datu Puangco



I RECENTLY GRADUATED WITH A degree in Liberal Arts from a provincial college. I want to work in a call center because of the good pay. My parents are counting on me to help support my younger brother through school. However, I am afraid I will not be able to qualify because I am not very good in English. In fact, I asked a friend to review this letter to you to make sure that you understand my English.

An aunt is willing to support me to improve my English. You mentioned in an earlier article that your company has an English Center. What content is typically covered by your program that will prepare someone like me for a call center job? What are the qualifications and characteristics of a good call center agent? Please give me advice as to steps to take. Many thanks.

Future Call Center Agent

I agree with you that it is important to be proficient especially in oral English to get into a job as a call center agent since most of the customers of call centers are companies overseas. Most of these companies are in the United States and Europe who have outsourced particular business processes to companies based in the country.

If you apply at Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting for training, you are given a test that comprises both written and oral English to gauge your level of competence. This is what we call a warm-up exercise where the language consultant meets with you one on one. If your competency level is adequate, then you go straight to the program for training call centers called Accept (Ancilla Contact Center Preparatory Training). If not, then our suggestion is for you to take English Jamming as a starting course.

English Jamming is a 36-hour “learn while having fun” program for professionals, fresh graduates and jobseekers. It improves the participant's skills in the four language arts of listening, speaking, reading and writing. It also includes a review of English grammar. Based on an assessment of your present proficiency, the participants set their own goals for communicative competence.

At the end of the course, the participant takes once again a test. Based on results, he or she then sets goals for further improvement. As we all know, English, like any other language is an art that can be improved through continuous practice.

Accept is an 80-hour program aimed at developing contact center applicants and professionals. It seeks to develop culture and English-savvy individuals with the capability for practical and effective communications. It also provides skills in telephone selling and customer service.

The program, likewise, hones potential service agents in problem solving, decision-making, managing personal change and handling stress thus enabling them to become active contributors once hired by companies.

The intensive program also includes exercises in speaking, listening, grammar, recognizing common syntax errors, standard American accent and geography and sentence construction. It also includes lessons on cross-:culture diversity and on growing the candor required to address directly and precisely the concerns of customers. It ends with a comprehensive exam that prepares the individual to simulate the experience of testing and interviewing for a call center agent job. After the program, the candidate is then referred to our call center company clients.

Based on recent statistics, customer care and back office processing companies that require competent call center agents are expected to produce over a million jobs by 2010. All the best and God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902. For other inquiries, please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

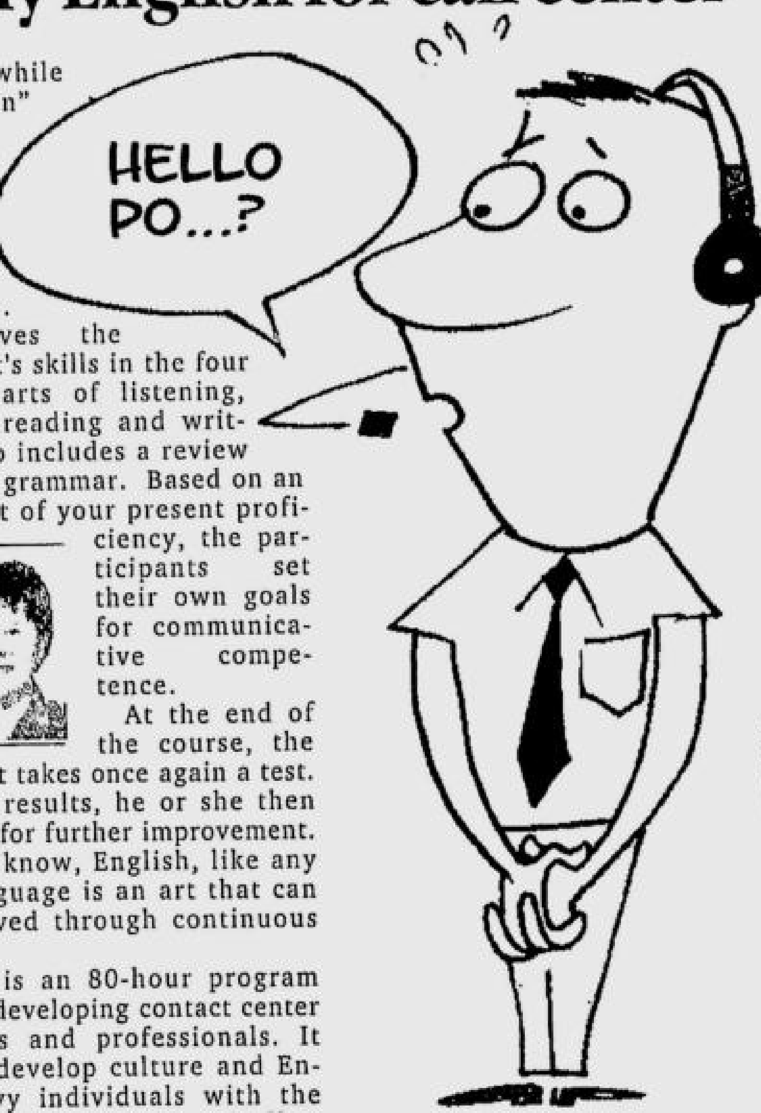


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Asian countries urged to reduce mass unemployment

NEW DELHI—GROWTH RATES OF Asia's high-flying economies could tumble unless countries reduce mass unemployment, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warned Thursday.

Nations such as India could step back from seven-to-eight percent growth to three to four percent if unemployment and underemployment are not tackled, the bank's chief economist Ifzal Ali said in the Indian capital.

Without action, “we could see a dramatic change (in India's growth) within five to six years,” he told journalists in the Indian capital.

In other Asian countries “two to three percentage points could be knocked off growth very easily,” he said.

“The outlines of an Asian unemployment crisis are already taking shape.” Countries in Asia spend too much time worrying about such issues as fiscal deficits and inflation and not enough time tackling unemployment, Ali added.

At “a very conservative estimate” at least half a billion people out of a workforce of 1.7 billion in the region are unemployed or under-employed and 245 million new workers are expected in the next decade, the bank said.

“Strong economic growth alone won't solve the problem,” Ali said.

Governments need to make job creation a “central national objective” backed by time-bound policies, he said.

“Strengthening the inclusiveness of the growth process is a precondition to sustaining high growth rates,” Ali said, launching an ADB publication “Labor Markets in Asia: Issues and Perspectives.” The bank noted it was becoming tougher to create jobs and each additional percentage point of economic growth creates less employment than in the past.

In China for instance—one of the world's consistently fast-growing economies—a three-percentage point increase in output was needed to produce a one-percentage point rise in employment in the 1980s.

In the 1990s, a growth rate of nearly eight percent was needed to achieve the same effect as a result of globalization, technological change and competition driving up productivity and reducing the number of workers needed.

Ali also said voters increasingly expect governments to deliver in areas as job creation.

In India, where the economy is growing by around eight percent, he cited the 2004 defeat of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party government when many voters said they felt left out of the boom.

“Governments have no option but to perform,” Ali said.

Asia has made big strides in cutting poverty but nearly 1.9 billion Asians still survive on less than two dollars a day “because people are either unable to find work or earn too little from the work they do,” the bank said.

Failure to tackle joblessness “will undermine the very social fabric,” increase political and social turmoil, paralyze policy-making, spur capital flight and “undermine the high rate of growth,” Ali said.

The bank also challenged a widely held view among economists that excessive labor market regulation—such as high minimum wages or stringent hire-and-fire policies—is stifling job creation in Asia.

“Just look at the organized sector of the economy in a country such as India which employs less than 10 percent of workforce, you are worrying about this when there is a multitude of people completely being bypassed,” said Ali.

Also companies in countries with strict labor laws reported “they have found ways around the law” or authorities do not apply them, said ADB economist Rana Hasan.

In the Philippines, for instance, the minimum wage rate was seen as high by companies but “it's a paper tiger—it's not enforced.” **AFP**

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This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for registration / more information. Limited seats only.

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THE X-HABIT, INC.

No. 1251 El Inventor Complex,
Amang Rodriguez Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone No. 682-2701 to 03, Fax No. 681-5620
Email: xhabit@glinesnx.com.ph

We are a leading full service exhibits, interiors, and events company. We have an urgent requirement for the following:

FINANCE HEAD

Must be an Accounting graduate, a Certified Public Accountant. With at least two (2) years related experience in a supervisory or managerial capacity. Must be honest, meticulous, organized, flexible, a team player. Female, not more than 35 years old

Please send resumé, application letter and 2x2 photo to the HR/Admin Department c/o Ms. Beth Masagn

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150 TELEMARKETERS
*College Level *Preferably with Experience
10 TEAM LEADERS
With Experience in Handling Telemarketers
With at least 10 Tele/DS Agents
TO BE HIRED ASAP !!!
GOOD COMPENSATION AWAITS QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Interested Applicants may apply personally every Mon. to Wed.
At 10 Flr., PSBank Center, #777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeno St., Makati City
Look for Lanie Danis (NCI Marketing) Come in Business Attire and bring NBI Clearance

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JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
BOOKKEEPER
(To Work at Malate, Manila)

- College graduates, Accounting Major
- Female with experiences in general accounting
- Familiar with filing of SSS, BIR & HDMF requirements
- Computer literate is a must
- New graduates are welcome to apply too

Interested applicants please send Bio-data to:
The Manager, P.O. Box 1515, Manila

JIMAC INCORPORATED
Total Point Of Sales (POS)
SYSTEM PROVIDER

IMMEDIATE HIRING

PROGRAMMERS

- Either Computer Science or related discipline.
- Proficient in either Delphi / Pascal, with at least 2 years experience.
- Experience in SQL and Client/Server Environment is a must.

SYSTEM SUPPORT

- Either Computer Engineering or Computer Science Courses
- Proficient in PC Troubleshooting, Software Installation and PC Network Configuration.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy and develop rapport.
- Able to solve problem analytically, creatively and effectively.
- Willing to assist client and work on extended hours / weekends and Holidays as needed (On-call status).

Interested applicants may send their resume with recent photo at our office address or via e-mail or fill-up application online at our website.

JIMAC, INCORPORATED
HRD DEPARTMENT
Penthouse floor TC Plaza Building
near cor. Cordillera St. Quezon Ave., Quezon City.
Tel No. 742-6832, 742-6853 loc. 117
E-mail address: hrd@jimac-inc.com visit
our Website at www.jimac-inc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Accountant V

Must be a CPA supplemented by a relevant MA / MBA degree, with 4 years experience in accounting & other related fields, with 30 hours of training in accounting operations & other development courses, with strong analytical, communication & interpersonal relations skills and proficient in computer applications.

Accountant III

Must be a CPA, with 2 years experience in accounting & other related fields, with 16 hours of training in accounting operations & other developmental courses, with strong analytical, communication & interpersonal relations skills and proficient in computer applications.

Treasury Officer VI

Must be a graduate in Finance, Statistics, Economics, Management or any business-related course supplemented by an MBA degree or other related MA degree from a reputable school, a Career Service Professional, with 4 years experience in treasury / banking operations, with 30 hours of training in counterfeit detection of bills, signature verification and other developmental courses, with strong planning & organizational skills, with solid financial analysis skills, strong communication skills and proficient in computer applications.

Interested applicants may submit their resumé to the Human Resource Department of the National Development Company in any of the following contact details:
Tel No.: 8404836 loc 227 or 220
Office Address: 116 Tordesillas St. Salcedo Village, Makati City
Email. hrmd@ndc.gov.ph

HEALTH MENU NUTRACEUTICALS

Unit 310 Narda's Commercial Center
Km5 Highway, La Trinidad, Benguet
Telefax No.: (074) 422-1947 • Cellphone No. 09184267967
E-mail Address: healthmenu@yahoo.com

The fast growing Filipino company which health food products are 100% natural, high quality and very effective

is in need of:

24 Territory Sales Officers

- Will be based in Quezon City, Manila, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Nueva Vizcaya, Tabuk, Kalinga Mountain Province, Abra, Ilocos Cur, Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Cebu, Bacolod, Naga, Iloilo, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Antipolo City and Davao Areas
- Graduate of any four or five year course
- With good communication skills, articulate, effective, hardworking, honest and respectful

If qualified, shall enjoy a monthly basic salary, 13th Month Pay, Allowances for sustenance, operations and other expenses, Commission Fees, bonuses and other incentives like car plan and package tour abroad

Applicants may email and fax or send thru LBC or JRS their Application Letter, Complete Resume, 1pc. 2x2 ID picture, NBI Certificate/Clearance, Photocopies of Transcript of Records, College Diploma, Birth and Marriage Certificate (if married), Cedula and Certificates of Previous Employments

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PRIME STARS INT'L PROMOTION CORP.

POEA LICENSE NO. 387-LB-012604-R

TAIWAN needs you!!!

MALE & FEMALE PRODUCTION OPERATORS

CORETRONIC CORPORATION Reg. # 10032331 (50 slots)
[illegible]
Interview Date : May 12, 2006 Product: TFT/LCD
- Female 20-30 yrs old, 155 cm above Male 20-30 yrs old, 160 cm above
- Vocational / College graduate, w/ experience in assembly, testing
- Clean room environment, willing to work on night shift

TAIWAN MICROPAQ CORPORATION Reg. # 10027841 (40 slots)
[illegible]
Interview Date : May 26, 2006 Product: IC
- Female, 23-35 yrs old, 155 cm above, 43 kg above
- College graduate preferably with electronics experience
- Ex Taiwan are welcome, ex AMKOR are welcome
- Male Engineers 23-35 yrs old, 155 cm above, 2 yrs above experience [illegible] with knowledge in ESEC 3006 & 3088 is an edge, knowledge in AGILENT HP9300 machine, CNC lathe machine, PCB exposure, ex AMKOR are welcome

HIGHLIGHT OPTOELECTRONICS INC. Reg. # 10017192 (20 slots)
[illegible]
Tentative Interview Date: June first week Product: LED
- Female, 20-35 yrs old, 155 cm above, 40-60 kg
- Vocational / College graduate, electronics or related course
- Experience not necessary good eyesight, healthy, alert, smart

FU SHENG INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. Reg. # 10028984 (40 slots)
[illegible]
Tentative Interview Date: June first week Product: IC Lead Frame
- Female, 23-35 yrs old, 153 cm above, 43 kg above
- Vocational / College graduate, good in math SMT experience
- Familiar in operating machines with good vision

K&K FOODS, LTD.
[illegible]
- Male, 20-35 yrs old below, 165 cm above, Vocational / College graduate
- weight proportionate to height, with good eyesight
- with experience in food processing and food cutting

FOR MANPOWER POOLING, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED, BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

Interested applicants should bring the following: Passport or DFA Receipt, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, 2x2 Picture, School Credentials, 4 ID cards (Old & New preferably with pictures)

FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- Female, 20 - 30 yrs old, Accounting graduate
- Can read/write at least basic Mandarin,
- With pleasing personality, computer literate
- Fast learner & can work under minimum supervision, new graduates are welcome to apply

CHINESE INTERPRETER:
- Female, 45 years old below
- College graduate/level
- Must be fluent in English, Tagalog, Mandarin and Fookien dialects, neat appearance
- English or Chinese computer literate
- Can work under minimum supervision
- High compensation awaits qualified applicants
- Call AILEEN at 528-1744

CONTACT US

MANILA OFFICE: #1923 San Marcelino St., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 404-0949
Cell Nos. 09209132352 / 09189070549 / 09189070167 / 09189799204 *(Note: We only entertain calls not text)*
Email : recruitment@primestars.com.ph

CEBU OFFICE: Townhouse #1, Medalle Court J. Llorente St., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 255-9950

URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are searching for an
ACCOUNT / MARKETING MANAGER
for stock photos to assume responsibility immediately

Candidate must be with creative and savvy marketing skills who will take charge of the highly growing business of stock photos

- Male or Female between 22 - 30 years old
- Degree in Advertising or Marketing
- With excellent communication and presentation skills
- Knowledgeable in graphic design and interest in photography is a plus
- Result oriented, team player and trustworthy
- Hardworking, resourceful, organized and willing to learn
- With existing accounts is an advantage

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with recent picture to:

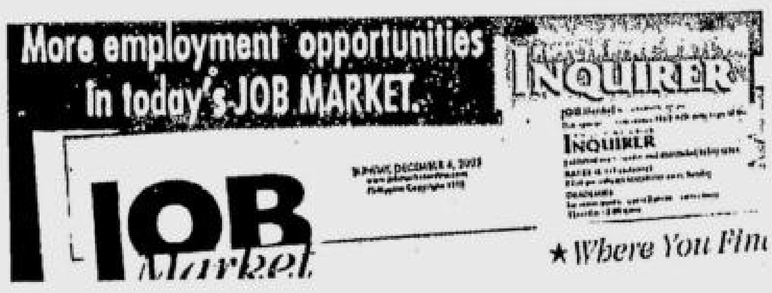
DAIICHI COLOUR, INC. (Manila)
A member of Daichi Colour Group of Hongkong
Suite 703 Prestige Tower Condominium
F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605 Philippines
Tel. (0632) 687-5369 / 60 • Fax (0632) 638-9179
Or may email their resumés at daichi@athk.com

A Foreign Consulting Firm is in need of a Senior Delphi Programmer

3 years recent Delphi new development, Oracle database development, ReportBuilder, SQL and project management/documentation, DevExpress, Visual Studio, Crystal Reports and engineering facility equipment knowledge considered assets.

The individual must have excellent written and verbal English communication skills with the ability to work without supervision in a telecommuniting environment. Must have own computer with high-speed internet connection.

CV's should be forwarded to jhobbs@coraspec.com



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Paved just for YOU!

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- ✓Signing Bonus for Telemarketers
- ✓Full Meal & 20% Night Differential
- ✓Php 5,000 Referral Bonus
- ✓Medical and Hospitalization
- ✓Fun, comfortable & Professional environment
- ✓Open Door Policy

Technical Support Agents
Customer Service Agents
Telemarketing Agents
Directory Assistance Agents

Job Fair

May 8 -12, 2006

9am - 5pm
4th Floor
ELJ Communication Tower
ABS-CBN Compound
Mother Ignacia Street, Q.C.
9817558-60
manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

NCO is the industry leader in providing clients with successful business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions. Our outsourcing portfolio includes accounts receivable management, customer management services, and back office services for a diversified customer base. Since NCOs inception in 1926, our goal has remained constant - to reduce client operating expenses, increased cash flow, and improve their customers' experience. Our best-in-class, result-driven reputation, strong financial track record, and proven business model makes NCO the choice for BPO solutions.

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK06

Mel Vergel De Dios
Melvin Lachica
Mich Dulce
Mitzi Quilendrino
Nolie Viñeza
Oliver Tolentino
Patty Eustaquio
Pia Gladys Perey
Pia Gladys Perey
Popoy Barba
Protacio Empaces Jr.
M Barretto
Mel Vergel De Dios
Melvin Lachica
Mich Dulce
Mitzi Quilendrino
Nolie Viñeza
Oliver Tolentino
Patty Eustaquio
Peter Lim
Pia Gladys Perey
Popoy Barba
Protacio Empaces Jr.
Rajo Laurel
Ramon Favila
Raoul Ramirez
Regine Dulay
Relan Mata
Renee Salud
Ricky Vicencio
Shanon Pamaong
Simon Ariel Vasquez
Steve De Leon
Tina Daniac
Tippi Ocampo
Twinkle Ferraren
Veejay Floresca
Yvonne Quisumbing Romulo

Philippine Fashion Week 2006 Designers

Adrian Rios
Aldrich Aparicio
Alex Bitong
Alex Pigao
Anthony "Tonichi" Nocom
Anthony Romoff
Aries Iñigo Lagat
Avel Bacudio
Aztec Barba
Barge Ramos
Benjie Pañizales
Bong Lazo
Brian Leyva
Bumbee Ramos
Ciara Marasigan
Delby Bragais
Dennis Martin
Dexter Alazas
Dodjie Batu
Dong Omaga-Diaz
Eddie Castro
Edgar Allan
Edgar Buyan
Edgar Madamba
Edgar San Diego
Emi-Alexander Englis
Eric Delos Santos
Fanny Serrano
Ferdie Abuel
Frederick Peralta
Francis Calaquian
Garimon Roferos
Gener Gozum
Gerry Katigbak
Glenn Lopez
Happy Andrada
Harley Ruedas
Ivan De La Cruz
James Reyes
Jasmine Castelo
Jay Sustiguer
Jerome Salaya Ang
Joel Escober
Joey Samson
John Abul
John Guarnes
John Herrera
John Paras
Johnny Abad
Jontie Martinez
Joy Bernaldez
Judith Pajaro
Julius Tarog
Jun Escario
Kate Torralba
Kenneth Chua
Larry Espinosa
Letlet Veloso
Lito Perez
Louis Claparols
Lyle Ibañez
LZ Punzalan
Malu Riguera
Manuel Barretto
Marichu Tan-Geson
Mel Vergel De Dios
Melvin La Chica
Mich Dulce
Mitzi Quilendrino-Bustos
Noli Viñeza
Nholie Pilapil
Ole Morabe
Oliver Tolentino
Oskar Peralta
Patty Eustaquio
Peter Lim
Pia Gladys Perey
Popoy Barba
Protacio Emapces Jr.
Rajo Laurel
Ramon Esteban
Ramon Favila
Raoul Ramirez
Regine Dulay
Reian Mata
Rem Divino
Renee Salud
Rholand Roxas
Richard Papa
Ricky Vicencio
Roland Lirio
Ronaldo Arnaldo
Shanon Pamaong
Sherwin Darrel Magtulis
Simon Ariel Vazquez
Steve De Leon
Tina Daniac
Tippi Ocampo
Twinkle Ferraren
Veejay Floresca
Vivo Nazareth
Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo

PRESENTED BY

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

IN COOPERATION WITH

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM OUR MEDIA PARTNERS AND PARTICIPATING SPONSORS

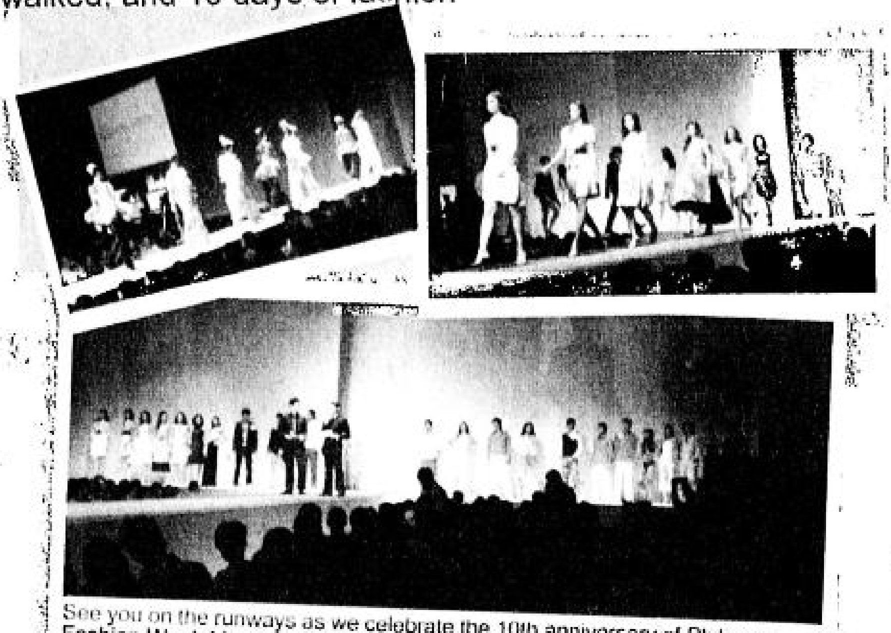
Philippine Fashion Week Summer '06 was directed by Audie A. Espino, Joey A. Espino Jr., Ariel Lozada, Raymund Villanueva and Cata Figueroa.

See you on the runways next year! Philippine Fashion Week turns 10...

All runway photos by Carl Valentin

THE EVENT: PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK 2006

432 models, 103 designers, 15 events, 3 show venues, 50,000 + attendees throughout the entire event, 400 ft of runway walked, and 10 days of fashion

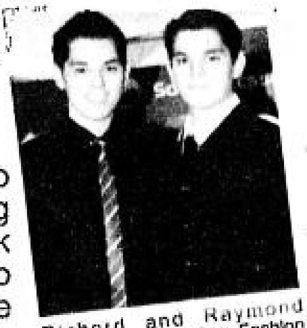


See you on the runways as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Philippine Fashion Week March -April 2007.

For sponsorship opportunities and label participation inquiries, please contact Runway Productions at 844 0467.

The Celebrities

From television hosts to video jocks, from movie stars to recording artists, Philippine Fashion Week draws in celebrity fashionistas who have come to support our home grown talents.



Richard and Raymond Guillerrez hosting Easy Fashion Event presented by Sony Ericsson Glorietta Activity Center

Cindy Kurleto at Fashionably Loud Party Embassy Superclub

Supermodel Charo Ronquillo at the Young Avant Garde Show at NBC Tent

Karylle Padilla, Dingdong Dantes at Premier Collection Show featuring Alex Pigeo, Lyle Ibañez & Raoul Ramirez at the NBC Tent

Ruffa Gultierrez at Premier Collection Show featuring Rajo Laurel

TV Host Willy Revillame backstage of Premier Collection D Show featuring Frederick Peralta

Top R & B Artist Jay-R with Music Producer/rap artist Jimmy Muna at Grand Allure Collection NBC Tent

The Players

Sony Ericsson, Sony Philippines, Wella, Avon, Penshoppe, Oxygen are among the key players in the fashion and lifestyle business that take part in this global fashion event celebrating 10 DAYS of PHILIPPINE FASHION.

Dennis Manzano- President & Gen. Manager Sony Ericsson at Easy Fashion Show Glorietta Activity Center

Patrick Larraga-Marketing Manager Sony Ericsson At Power Generation Show Nbc Tent

(left to right) Sali Sauco of Goldilocks with Daphne and Mafly of Calcarnes

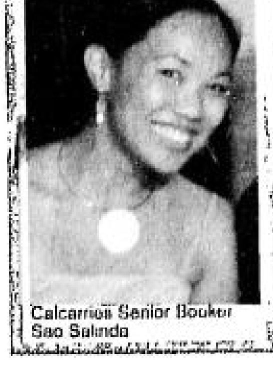
Mr. Kuniharu Mori Senior Manager For Mobile Electronics- Sony Electronics Asia Pacific At Grand Allure Show Nbc Tent

(left to right) May Sanico- Marketing Communications Manager-Sony Philippines,with Filipina Supermodel Winner Charo Ronquillo, Kristine Villanueva - Marketing Supervisor Sony Cyber-shot, and , Catherine Tan-Handycam Product Specialist at Grand Allure Show

(left to right) Faith Aranton - Assistant PR Manager, Louie Migno - Senior PR Manager, and Alice Orleans - Group Communications Manager at the FDAP Show at NBC Tent

Daisy Go - VP Marketing / Brand Manager for Penshoppe

Rebecca Lopez, Professional Division Manager Wella

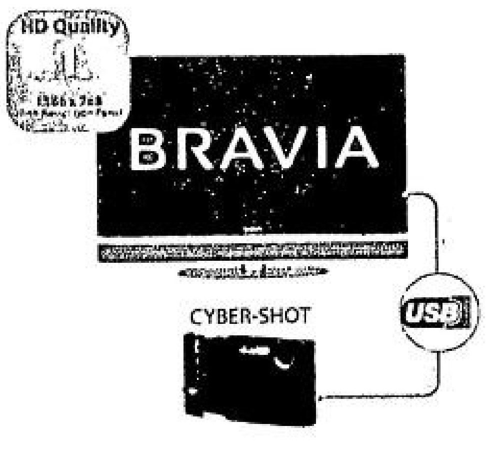


Calcarnes Senior Booker Sao Salinda

Dea Alonzo -Brand Manager for Oxygen

SONY **BRAVIA**

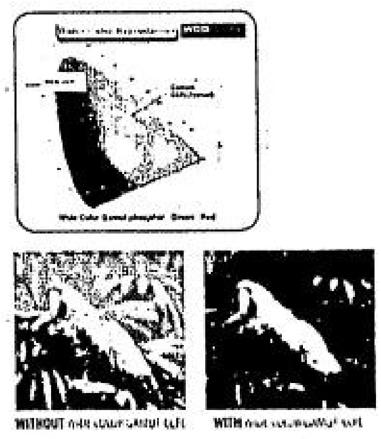
Experience High Definition Style with Bravia



Take cool summer pics with your friends and family and enjoy exceptional images as Sony projects HD pictures thru USB input on your Bravia. Precious moments will be treasured in superb detail.

With Sony's High Definition perfect combination, you can experience lifestyle that only Sony can give.

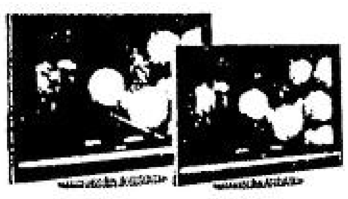
HD Sony High Definition Quality



Wide Color Gamut - CCFL
(for Bravia V Series)

- 30% increase in colour reproduction Vs. current CCFL used to conventional LCD TV.
- Precise color vibrancy and intensity.

WCG-CCFL
Wide Color Gamut-CCFL



V Series

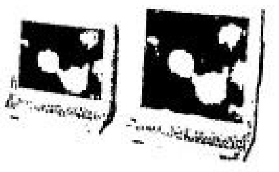
KLV-V40A10	(40")	P 239,990
KLV-V32A10	(32")	P 159,990

S Series

KLV-S40A10	(40")	P 209,990
KLV-S32A10	(32")	P 119,990
KLV-S26A10	(26")	P 99,990

B Series

KLV-B20G10	(20")	P 59,990
KLV-B15G10	(15")	P 39,990



HT Series

MFM-HT95	(19")	P 69,990
MFM-HT75W	(17")	P 59,990

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info.sph@ap.sony.com

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SONY **Sony Summer Pleasures 2006**

Contact us to get hold of a FREE copy of Sony's promo catalogue at 878-7600 or visit our website at www.sony.com.ph

Catch the promo craze this summer only from Sony! Promo period: April 22 to July 2, 2006

The Directors

A Runway reunion. Originally making their directing debut with Runway Productions, Ariel Lozada & Raymond Villanueva reunite once again with the Espino Brothers (Audie And Joey), also joined by Cata Figueroa to make this event a huge success. All directors have show their support Philippine fashion designers lending their expertise in stage direction and choreography.

Cata Figeroa

Audie A. Espino

Joey A. Espino Jr.

Ariel Lozada

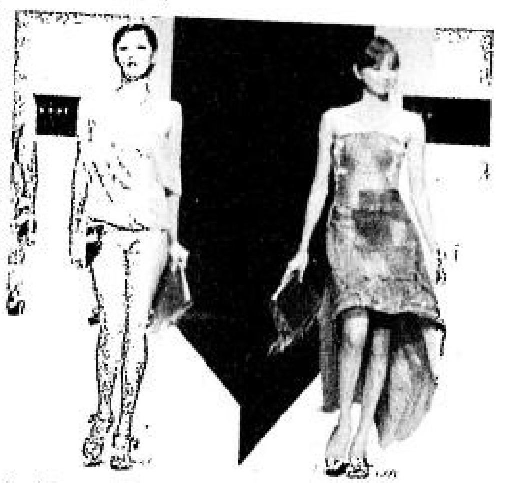
Raymond Villanueva

The Premier Collection

This year, Fashion is in focus with Cyber-shot unveiling its latest designs on the runways at Glorietta Activity Center. Presented alongside the Premier Collection Designers, the W Series, S Series and H series made its runways debut focusing on the collections of Alex Pigao, Lyle Ibañez, Raoul Ramirez, Anthony Nocom, Gerry Katigbak, Avel Bacudio, and Frederick Peralta.

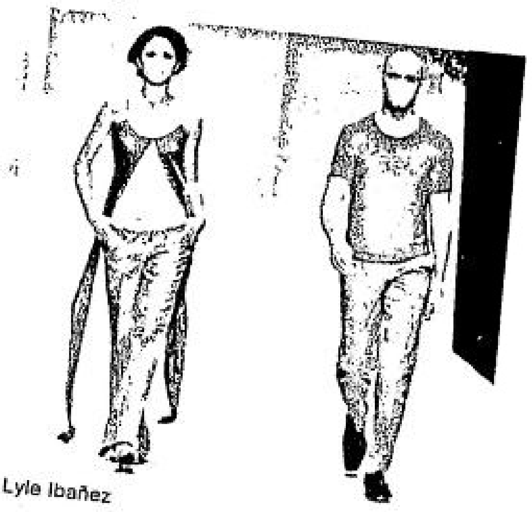
Alex Pigao

Anthony Nocom


Avel Bacudio

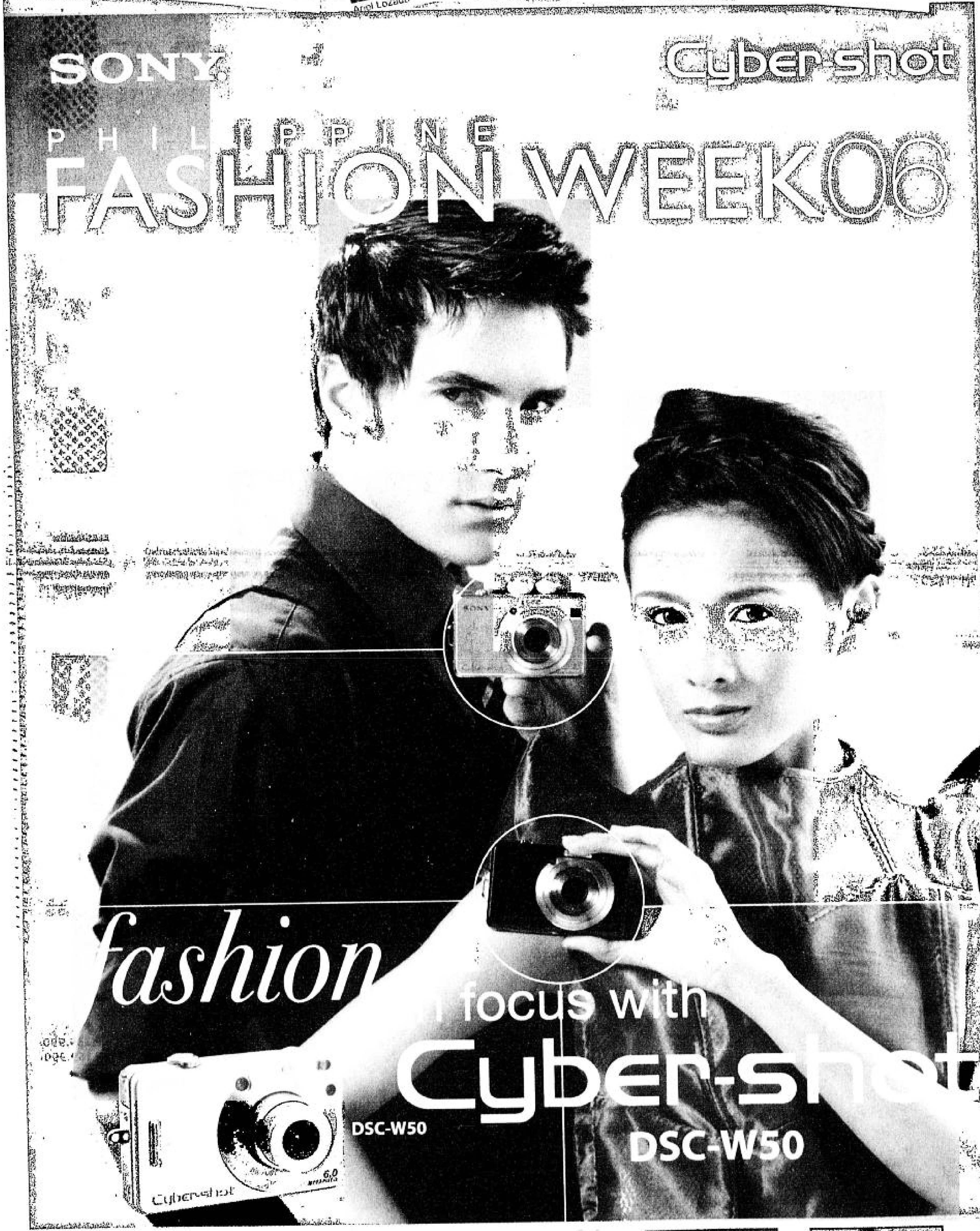
Frederick Peralta

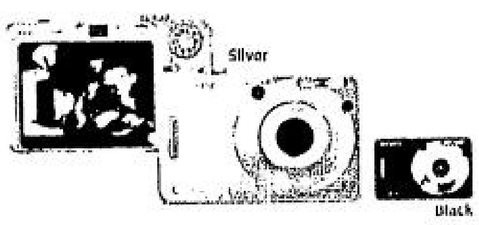
Gerry Katigbak


Lyle Ibañez

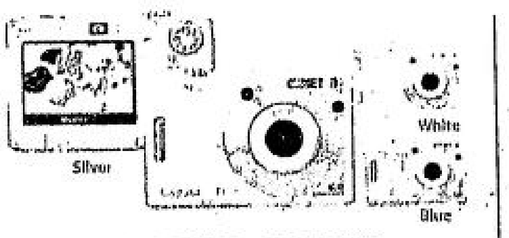
Rajo Laurel

Raoul Ramirez





DSC-W50 P 22,999
- 6.1 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- 2.5 Larged Sized LCD
- Anti Blur Solution: High Sensitivity Mode
- Lithium Ion Battery



DSC-W30 P 19,999
- 6.1 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- 2.0 Larged Sized LCD
- Anti Blur Solution:
  High Sensitivity Mode
- Lithium Ion Battery

Without High Sensitivity

With High Sensitivity

With Higher Sensitivity of up to ISO1000*, the Cyber-shot W series offers enhanced sharpness and clarity when capturing subjects at high shutter speeds, or under low lighting conditions.

ISO High Sensitivity ISO 1000

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SONY **Sony Summer Pleasures 2006**

Contact us to get hold of a FREE copy of Sony's promo catalogue at 878-7600 or visit our website at www.sony.com.ph

Catch the promo craze this summer only from Sony! Promo period: April 22 to July 2, 2006

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2179 Series of 2006

The Hot Stuff

Fashion's stylish new beats
This season, Sony Ericsson rocks the runways with stylish beats with the new w810 i walkman phones. The w810 i provided Fashion Week with a 512 mb memory stick pro due storing up to 20 full length cds! so whether you want hip hop or house, a sound track to the entire fashion week event, the w810 i lets you have your music, your style.

The New Generation
Alongside this year's new generation designers, Sony Ericsson unveiled its new generation of mobile handsets combining the both 3G technology and walkman feature. The w900i mobile phone allowed fashionistas to capture, share and relive the wonderful moments of Philippine Fashion Week.

Easy Fashion, Easy Communication
This fashion week, mobile communications giant, Sony Ericsson has made it easier to comminicate on their new easy to use and fun mobile handsets with launch of the j 220 i & j 230 i. Needing something simple yet stylish, easy use with basic functions, the j 220i wowed the crowd with its ease of use allowing users to choose between a single icon menu or the popular Sony Ericsson multi-icon menu. along with a large storage capacity for phone numbers (up to 500) and sms (up to 200, and style-up™ covers , the one-click navigation key, the easy to access the most commonly used functions.

For those who always stay up to date and in tune - the j230i – handset is perfect. With a built-in fm radio enabling users to be always tuned into your favourite stations for music, sports or news with the click of one button from the navigation key, the phone also comes equipped with a stereo hands-free, the speaker phone feature, and allows a choice between the single or multi-icon menu. Whether its listening to the radio, or answering a call, looking up a phone number, or creating text message, all of these features are just one click away.

Must Have Accessory
Designing for a cause, Raoul Ramirez, Tippie Ocampo, Kate Torralba, Alex Pigao, Ronaldo Arnaldo, Edgar San Diego and Mich Dulce created stylish one-of-a kind accessories to fitting Sony Cyber-shot new camera designs of W series, the N series, and the H series. These one of a kind designer accessories will be auctioned online and proceeds will go to benefit the recent land slide victims in southern Philippines. For more info log on to www.sony.com.ph.

DVD Handycam shoots and shares the best of Philippine Fashion Week

Led by flagship model DCR-DVD905 which boasts 4 mega pixels of power, Sony's comprehensive line of Handycams carry the ClearVid CMOS Sensor guaranteeing exceptional video clarity, high quality still images, allowing playback on home theatre systems with 5.1 Surround Sound capabilities for realistic scene experience. Sony's DVD Handycam models unveiled on the runways this season are DCR-DVD905, DCR-DVD805 ,DCR-DVD755, and entry-level DCR-DVD605. For more information, please call the Sony Contact Center at 878 7600, email info_sph@ap.sony.com or log on to www.sony.com.ph.

BRAVIA unveils its hi definition style at Philippine Fashion Week

Distinct In Its Design, Sony's New Bravia Television Is High On Our List Of Must Have This Summer. Bringing out the "**B**est **R**esolution **A**udio **V**isual **I**ntegrated **A**rchitecture" onto the runways of Philippine Fashion, the SONY **BRAVIA** gains recognition as the most inclusive LCD television line-up ever to be launched in Asia. Performance-packed, Style Savvy, High Definition and highly in-demand, Sony Bravia has been rated as the Best LCD Television in the world. Anaylists are already speculating that Sony's is well on the way to reclaim its #1 position in the world after it posted its 2005 Fiscal Year results last week.

SONY

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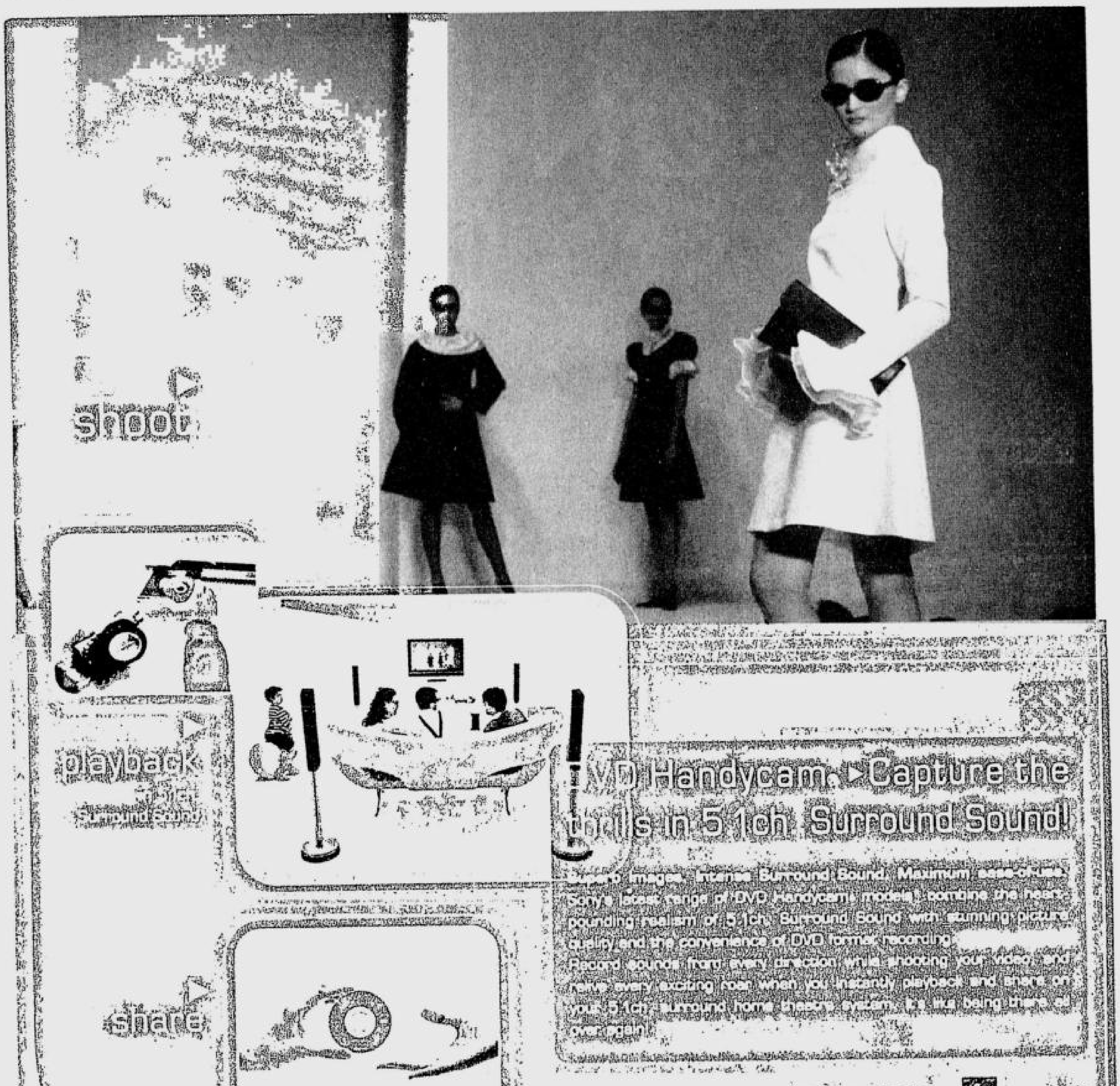

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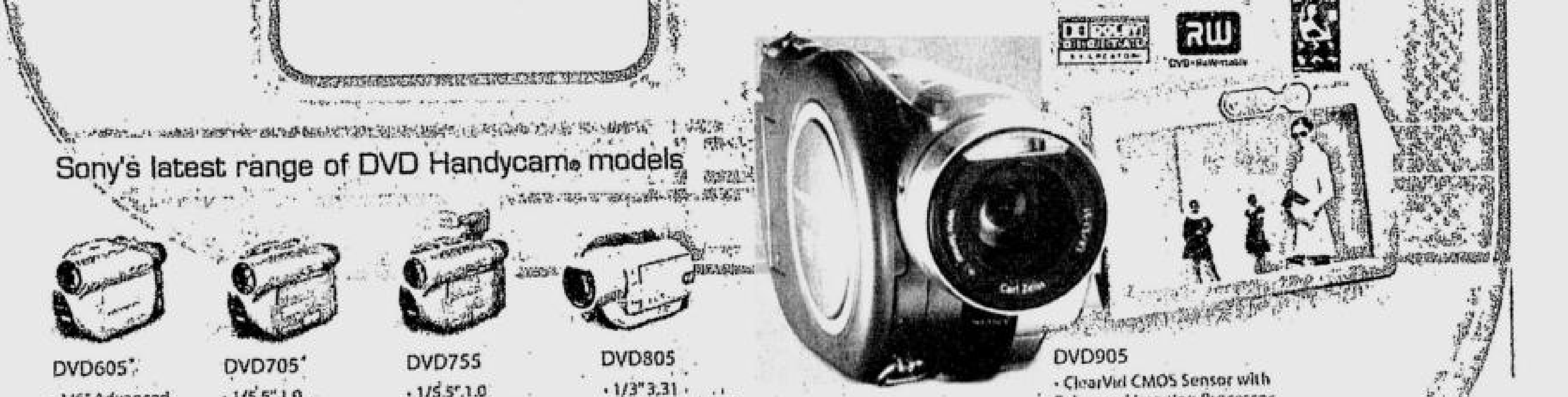

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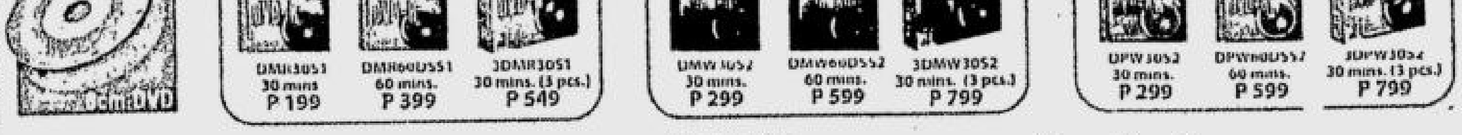

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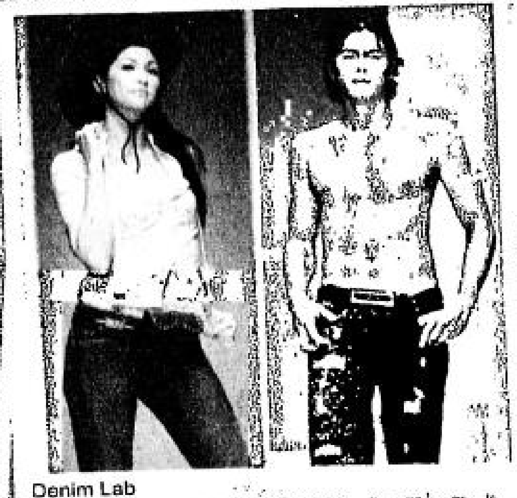
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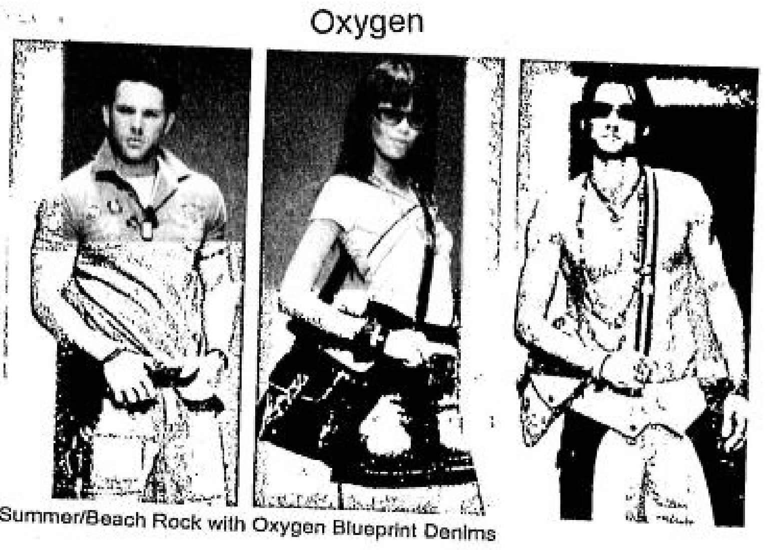

Summer/Beach Rock with Oxygen Blueprint Denims

The New Breed

Philippine Fashion Week in cooperation with Sony Cyber-shot & Handycam focuses on a new breed of fashion photographers & videographers selecting a dozen students from different universities to capture all the action in fashion. Students had access to the latest technology of the Cyber-shot R1 camera & DVD Handycam. The Student PHOTOGRAPHER & VIDEOGRAPHER Apprentice Program was officially launched this year giving students the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience working in the fashion business. Runway Productions and Sony Philippines would like to thank the participation of our student photographers Charles Custodio, CJ Aquino, Raphael Atienza, Debbie Gianan, RC Banares, Jay Magbanua, and Isa Sarmiento & our student videographers Bea Acosta, Mario Relampagos III, Alwin Tan, Jiggy Cruz and Mark dela Cruz for their hard work and contribution to this year's event.

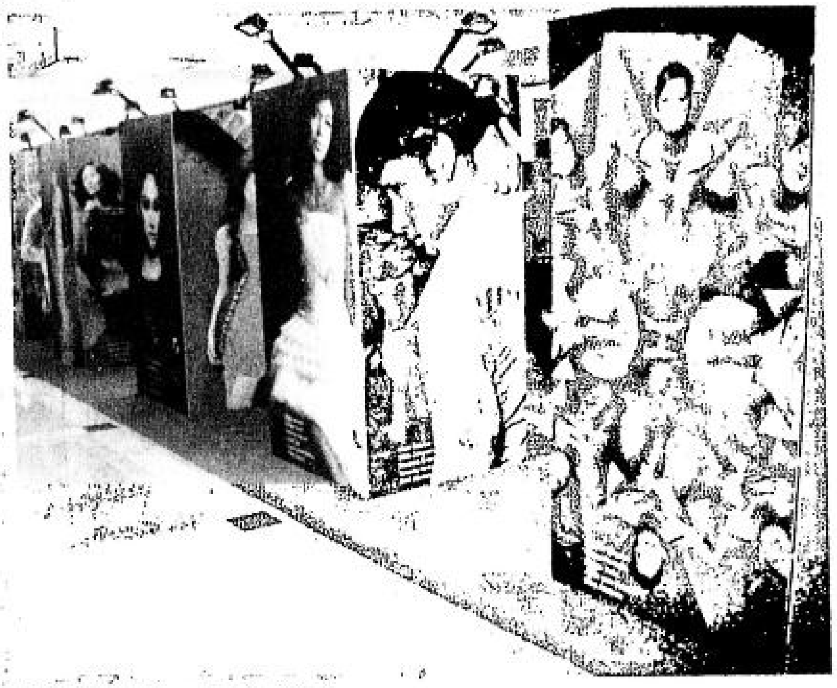
More PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK STUDENT PROGRAMS TO BE OPENED SOON. For students who are interested in participating in THE PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK 2007 STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER PROGRAM & STUDENT VI DEOGRAPHER PROGRAM, apply now by sending your resumes and contact details to . Slots are limited. For more information, please contact Runway Productions at 753 3688.

Philippine Fashion Week Student Photographer Apprentice Program. Selecting 7 students from different universities, students were thrown into the glamourous and cut throat world of fashion. To survive, student had to quickly learn the ropes of Fashion Photography. Equipped with Sony Cyber-shot's latest R1 camera, our student photographers were among the shutterbugs dashing to capture every angle and every moment of Philippine Fashion as they unfolded. From fashion shows to celebrities, from designer stories to model stories, our student photographers worked extremely hard to sharpen their skills proving to the fashion's pros that they belong. All student photographers were tasked to select and edit their photos, which was presented along side the Premier Collection at Glorietta Activity Center featuring the collections of Alex Pigao, Lyle Ibanez, Raoul Ramirez, Anthony Nocom, Gerry Katigbak, Avel Bacudio, and Frederick Peralta.

Charo Ronquillo with the new breed of Fashion Photographers

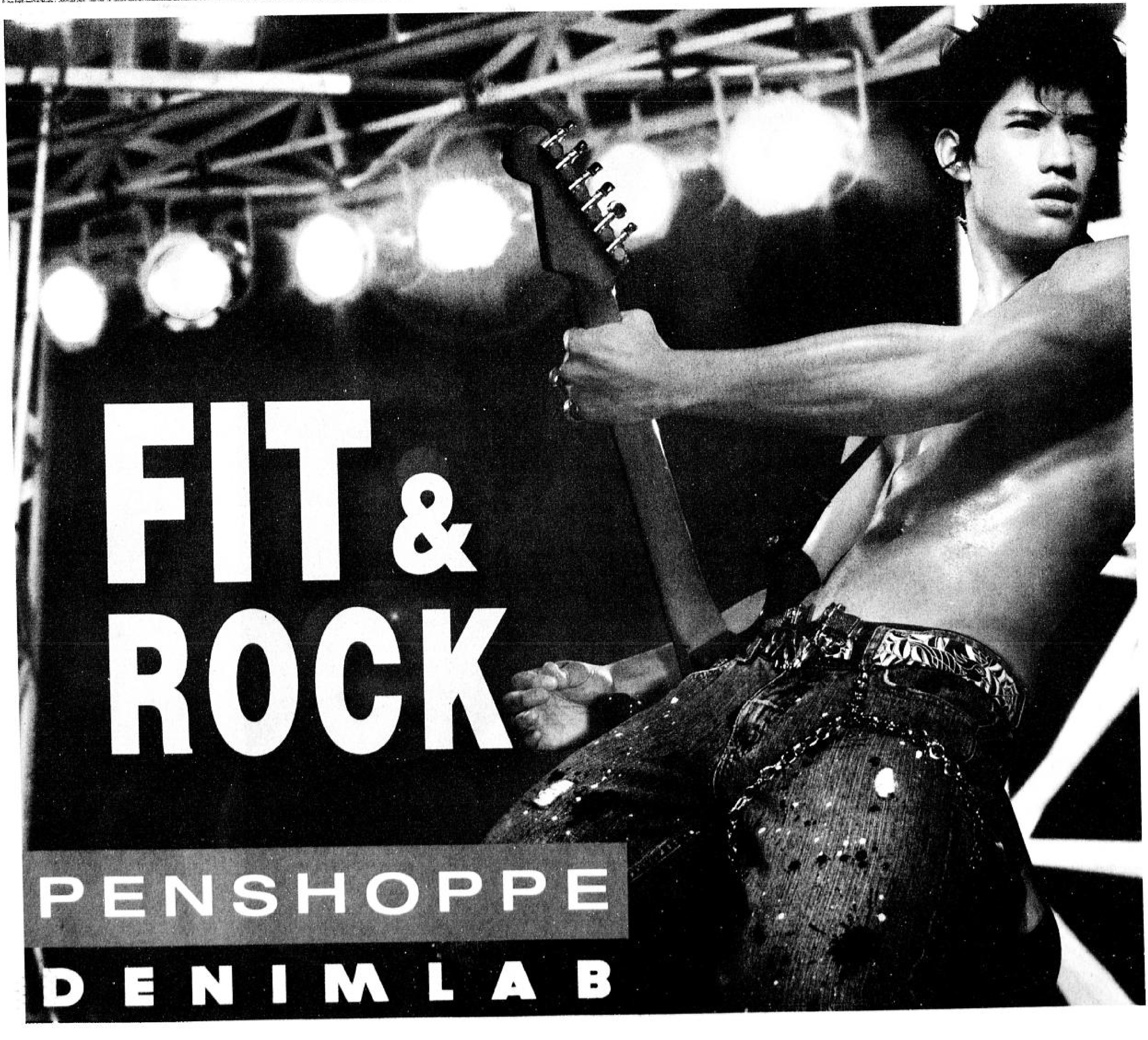
The Photo Exhibition

All PFW photographers, stylists, & makeup artists in cooperation with sony cyber-shot salutes the country's top fashion photographers makeup artists and stylists


PFW 06 Exhibition at the Glorietta 4

Philippine Fashion Week Official Photographers

Dix Perez, Doc Marlon Pecjo, Dominique James, Erwin Barleta, Francis Abraham, Jake Versoza, Mark Nicdao, Miguel Miranda, Pancho Escaler, Patrick Uy, Raymund Isaac, Steve Tirona, Toto Labrador, Victor Consunji, Wig Tysmans, Willy Saw, Xander Angeles



The Power Generation

Sabina and Celine Lopez

Quark Henares and Vicky Belo

Nonoy and Ige Gallardo

The Parties

Mixmaster DJ Elliot spins at The Tribal Party

DJ Eman raises the decibels at Sony Network Walkman Fashionably Loud Party

PFW 06 fans party at the Embassy Super Club

The VIPs

Rissa Samson

Lisa Ilardo

Tessa Prieto Valdes

Loren Legarda

Josh Owens and Geoff Simpson

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Joey Espino - Executive Producer

Tina Herrera Associate Producer

Gerard Castillo Marketing/Producer

Chere Du PFW 06 Editor & Mode+L Writer

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

MAY 7, 2006

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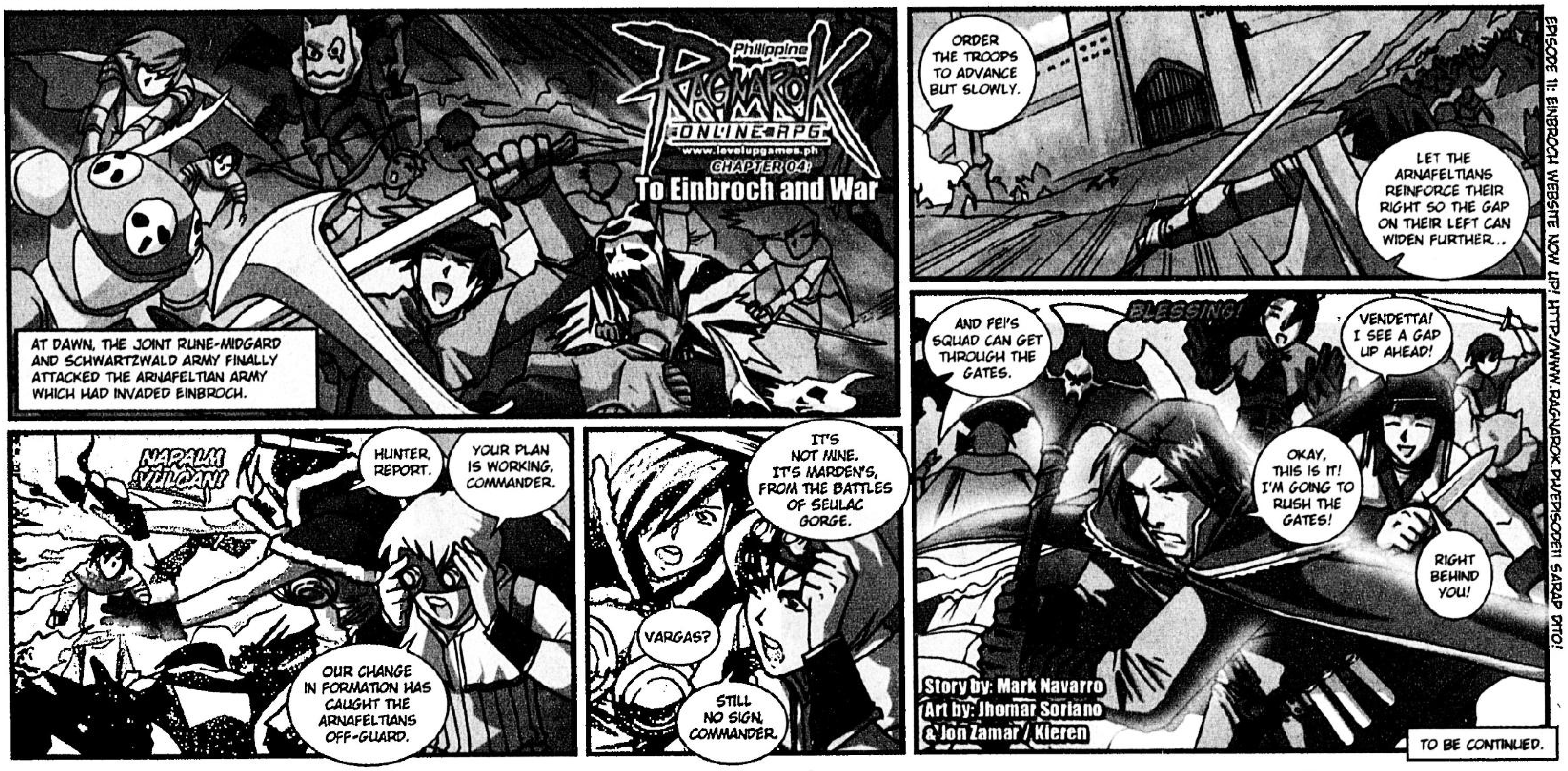
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES


Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 04:
To Einbroch and War
AT DAWN, THE JOINT RUNE-MIDGARD AND SCHWARTZWALD ARMY FINALLY ATTACKED THE ARNAFELTIAN ARMY WHICH HAD INVADED EINBROCH.
ORDER THE TROOPS TO ADVANCE BUT SLOWLY.
LET THE ARNAFELTIANS REINFORCE THEIR RIGHT SO THE GAP ON THEIR LEFT CAN WIDEN FURTHER...
NAPALM VULCAN!
HUNTER, REPORT.
YOUR PLAN IS WORKING, COMMANDER.
OUR CHANGE IN FORMATION HAS CAUGHT THE ARNAFELTIANS OFF-GUARD.
IT'S NOT MINE. IT'S MARDEN'S, FROM THE BATTLES OF SEULAC GORGE.
VARGAS?
STILL NO SIGN, COMMANDER.
AND FEI'S SQUAD CAN GET THROUGH THE GATES.
BLESSING!
VENDETTA! I SEE A GAP UP AHEAD!
OKAY, THIS IS IT! I'M GOING TO RUSH THE GATES!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano
& Jon Zamar / Kieren
TO BE CONTINUED.
EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

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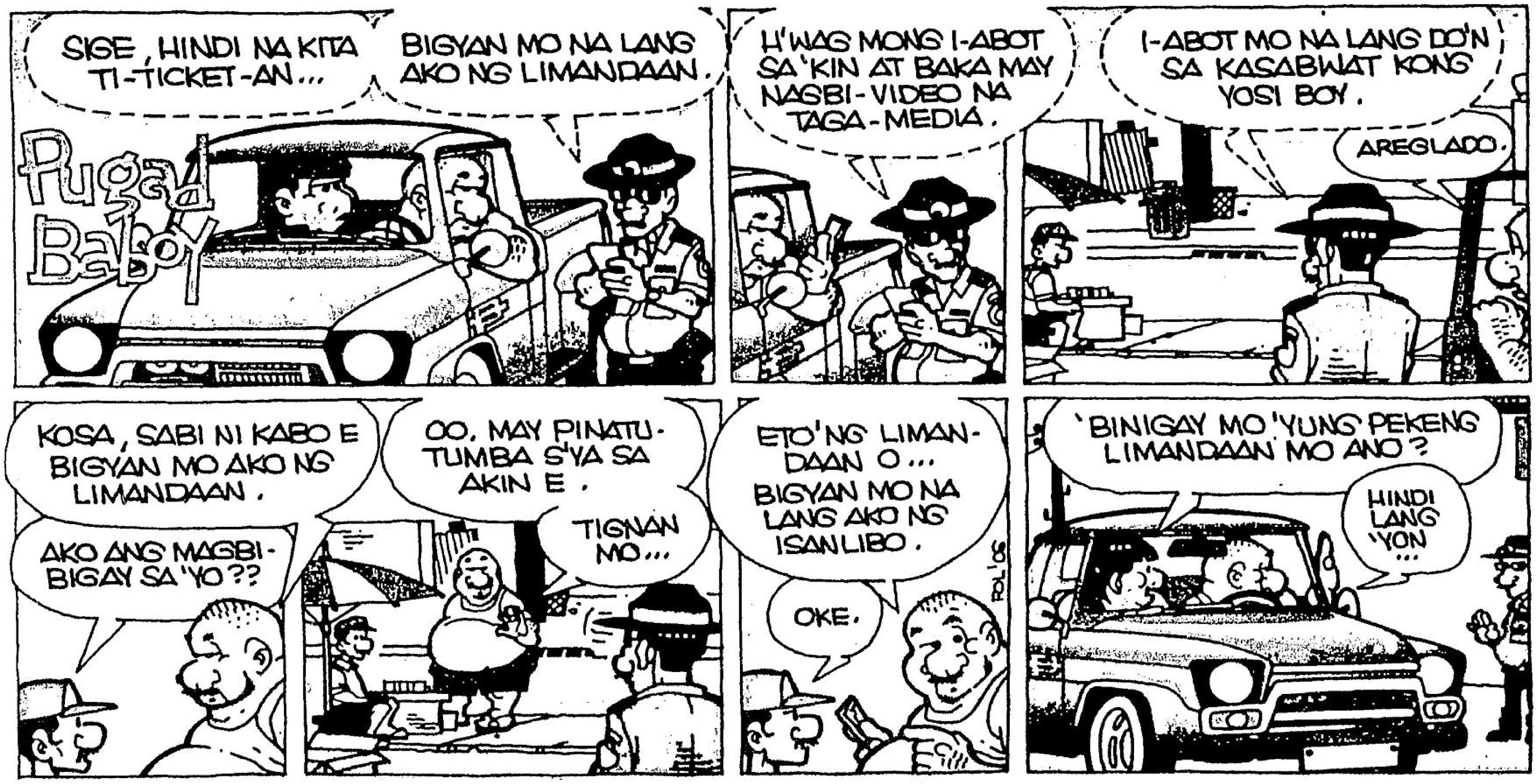
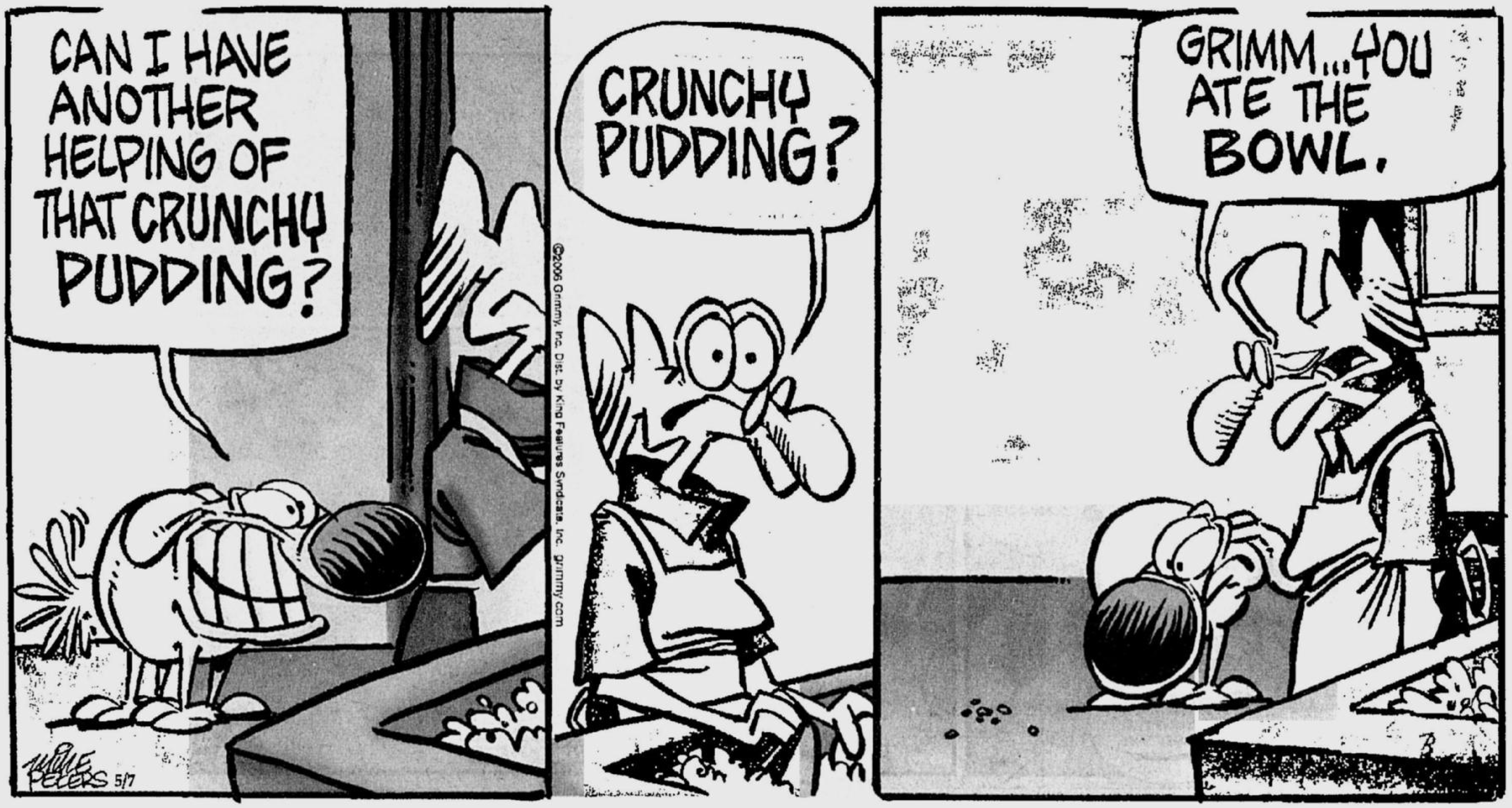
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
SIGE, HINDI NA KITA TI-TICKET-AN...
BIGYAN MO NA LANG AKO NG LIMANDAAN.
H'WAG MONG I-ABOT SA 'KIN AT BAKA MAY NAGBI-VIDEO NA TAGA-MEDIA.
I-ABOT MO NA LANG DO'N SA KASABWAT KONG YOSI BOY.
AREGLADO.
KOSA, SABI NI KABO E BIGYAN MO AKO NG LIMANDAAN.
AKO ANG MAGBIBIGAY SA 'YO??
OO, MAY PINATUTUMBA S'YA SA AKIN E.
TIGNAN MO...
ETO'NG LIMANDAAN O... BIGYAN MO NA LANG AKO NG ISANLIBO.
OKE.
POL '06
`BINIGAY MO 'YUNG PEKENG LIMANDAAN MO ANO?
HINDI LANG 'YON...

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


CAN I HAVE ANOTHER HELPING OF THAT CRUNCHY PUDDING?
CRUNCHY PUDDING?
GRIMM...YOU ATE THE BOWL.
MIKE PETERS 5/7

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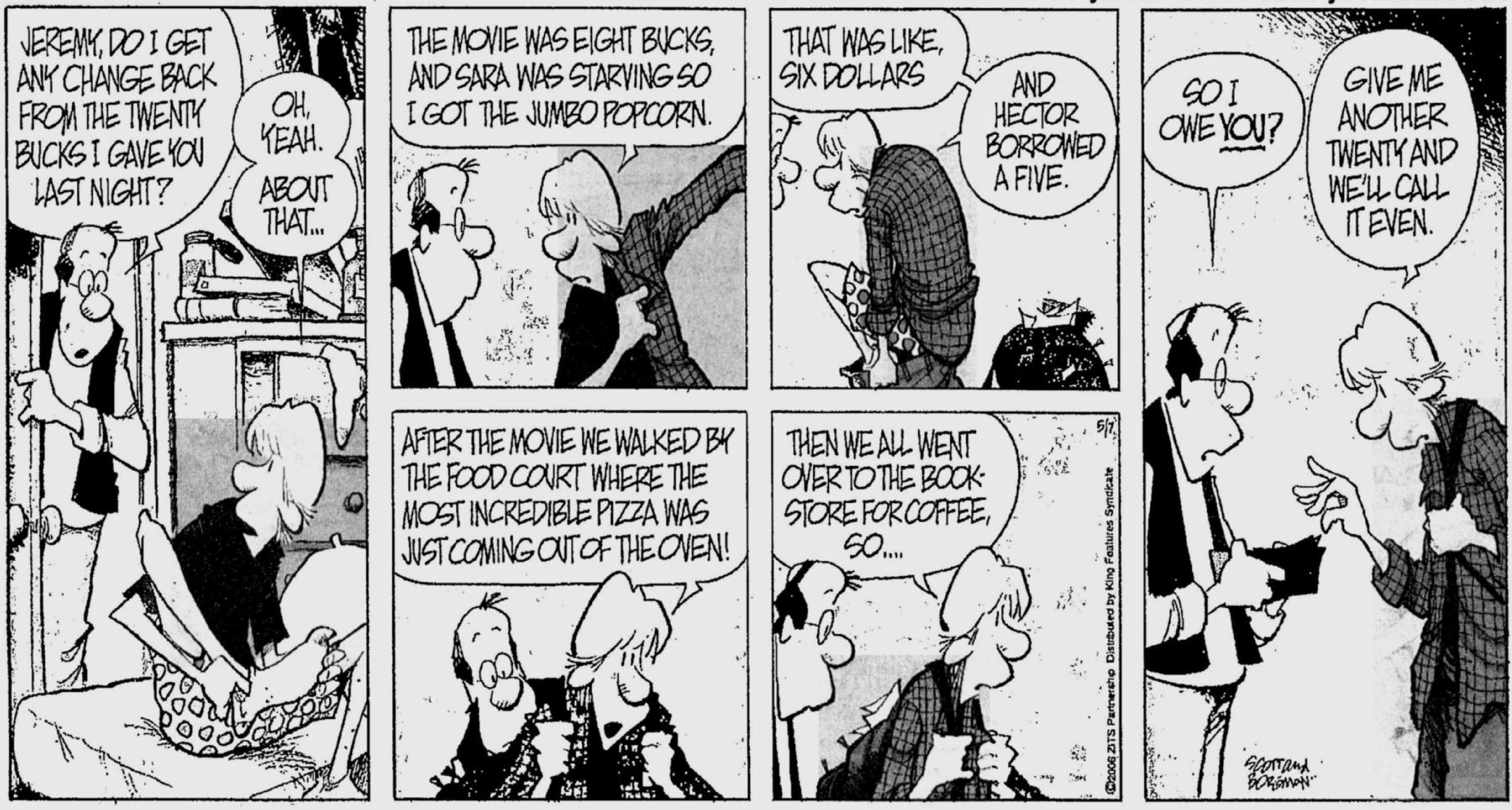
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


JEREMY, DO I GET ANY CHANGE BACK FROM THE TWENTY BUCKS I GAVE YOU LAST NIGHT?
OH, YEAH.
ABOUT THAT...
THE MOVIE WAS EIGHT BUCKS, AND SARA WAS STARVING SO I GOT THE JUMBO POPCORN.
AFTER THE MOVIE WE WALKED BY THE FOOD COURT WHERE THE MOST INCREDIBLE PIZZA WAS JUST COMING OUT OF THE OVEN!
THAT WAS LIKE, SIX DOLLARS
AND HECTOR BORROWED A FIVE.
THEN WE ALL WENT OVER TO THE BOOKSTORE FOR COFFEE, SO....
5/7
SO I OWE YOU?
GIVE ME ANOTHER TWENTY AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.
SCOTT and BORGMAN

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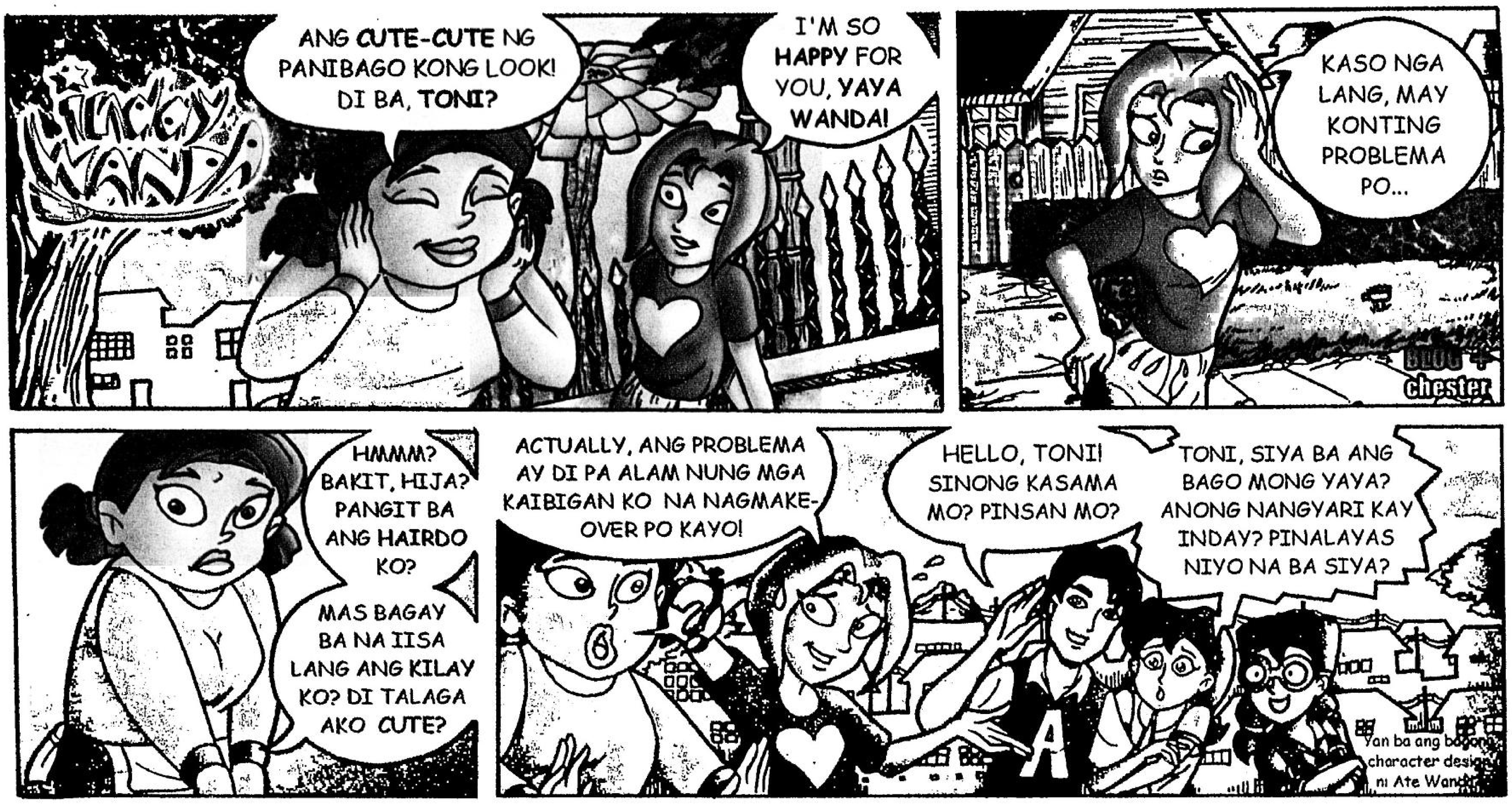
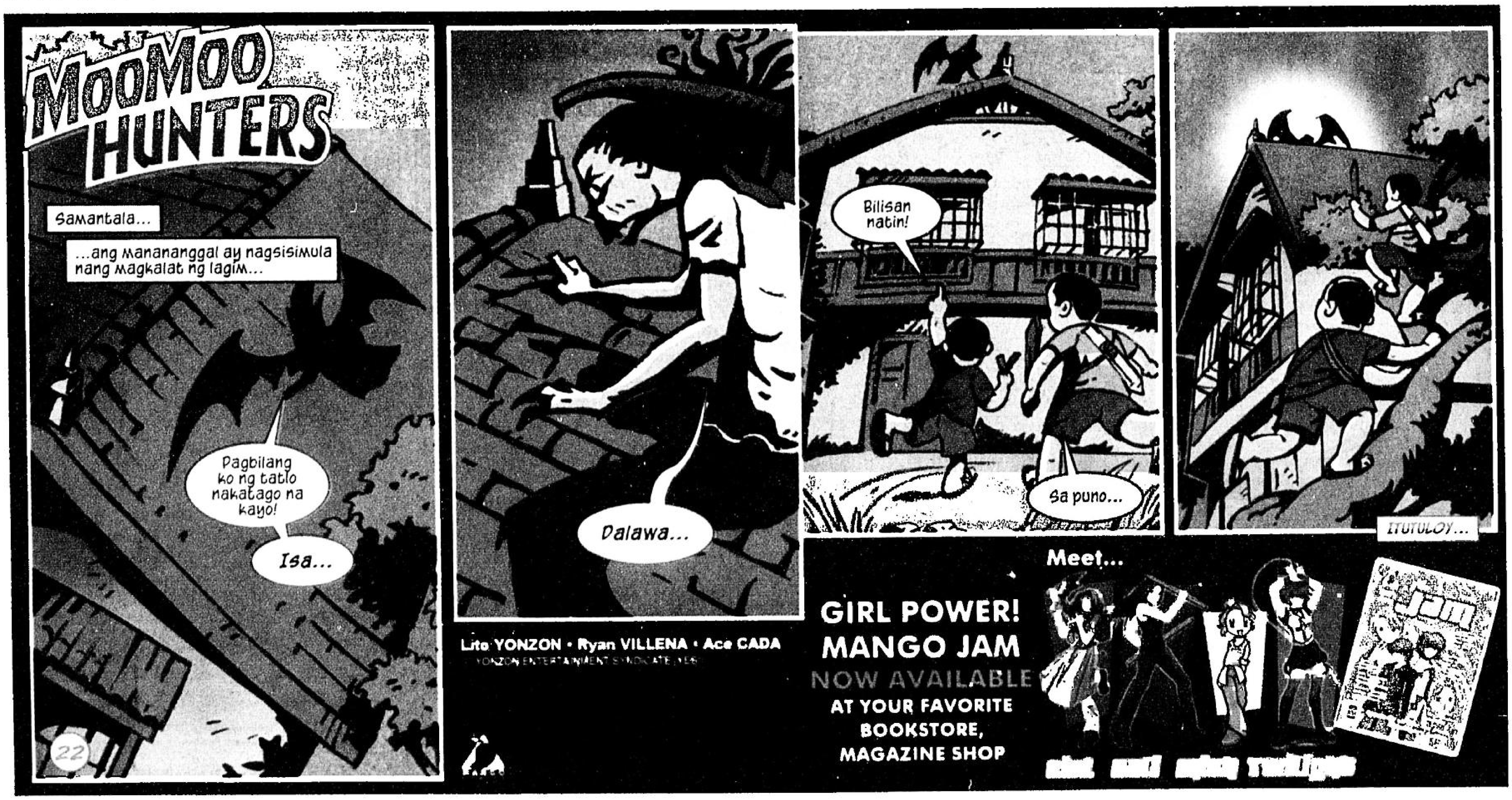
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
ANG CUTE-CUTE NG PANIBAGO KONG LOOK! DI BA, TONI?
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, YAYA WANDA!
KASO NGA LANG, MAY KONTING PROBLEMA PO...
blog + chester
HMMM? BAKIT, HIJA? PANGIT BA ANG HAIRDO KO?
MAS BAGAY BA NA IISA LANG ANG KILAY KO? DI TALAGA AKO CUTE?
ACTUALLY, ANG PROBLEMA AY DI PA ALAM NUNG MGA KAIBIGAN KO NA NAGMAKE-OVER PO KAYO!
HELLO, TONI! SINONG KASAMA MO? PINSAN MO?
TONI, SIYA BA ANG BAGO MONG YAYA? ANONG NANGYARI KAY INDAY? PINALAYAS NIYO NA BA SIYA?
A
Yan ba ang bagong character design ni Ate Wanda

MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Samantala...
...ang manananggal ay nagsisimula nang magkalat ng lagim...
Pagbilang ko ng tatlo nakatago na kayo!
Isa...
22
Dalawa...
Bilisan natin!
Sa puno...
ITUTULOY...
Meet...
GIRL POWER!
MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE, MAGAZINE SHOP
Jam

Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA

YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE 1-6

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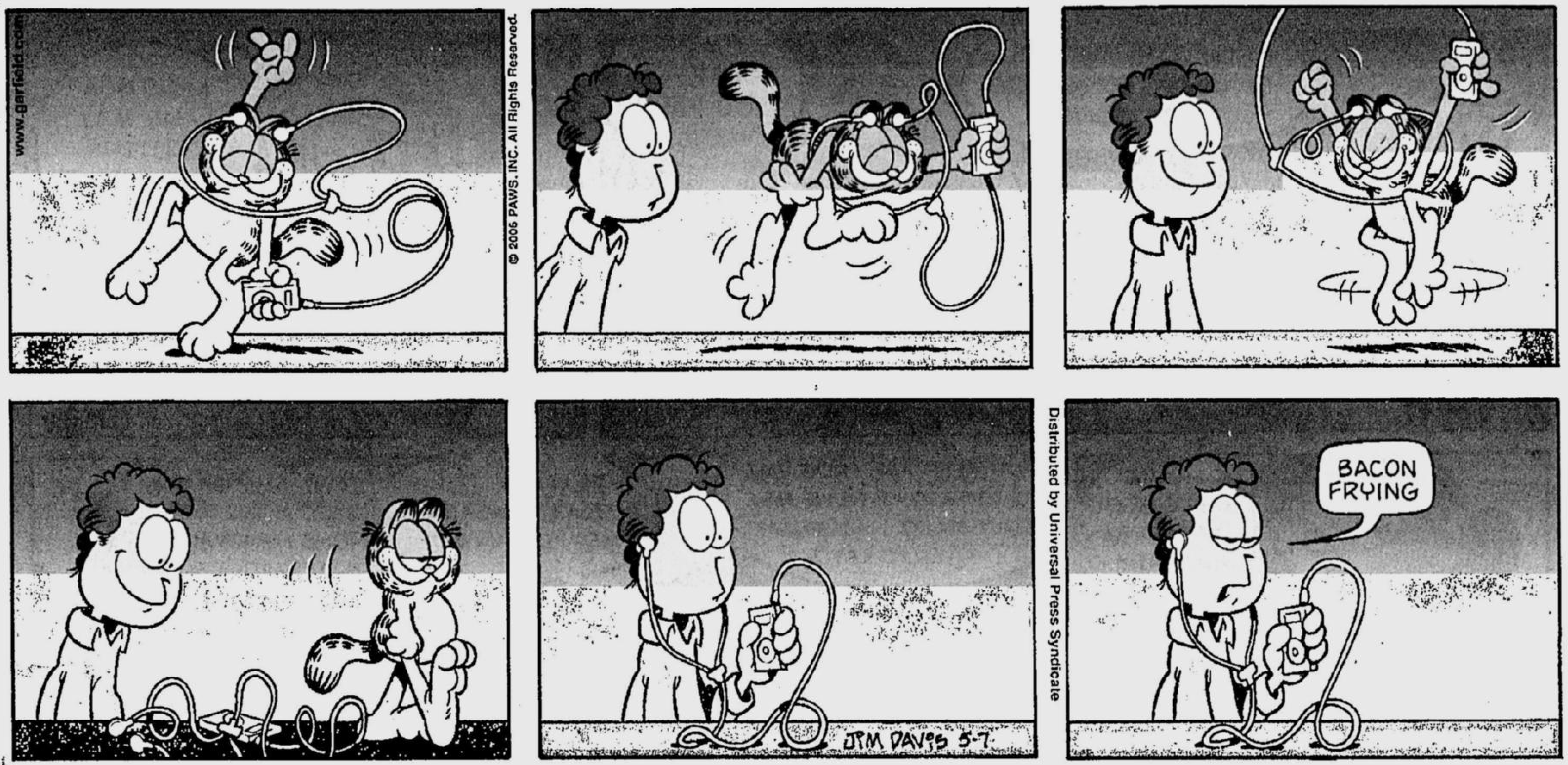
BY JIM DAVIS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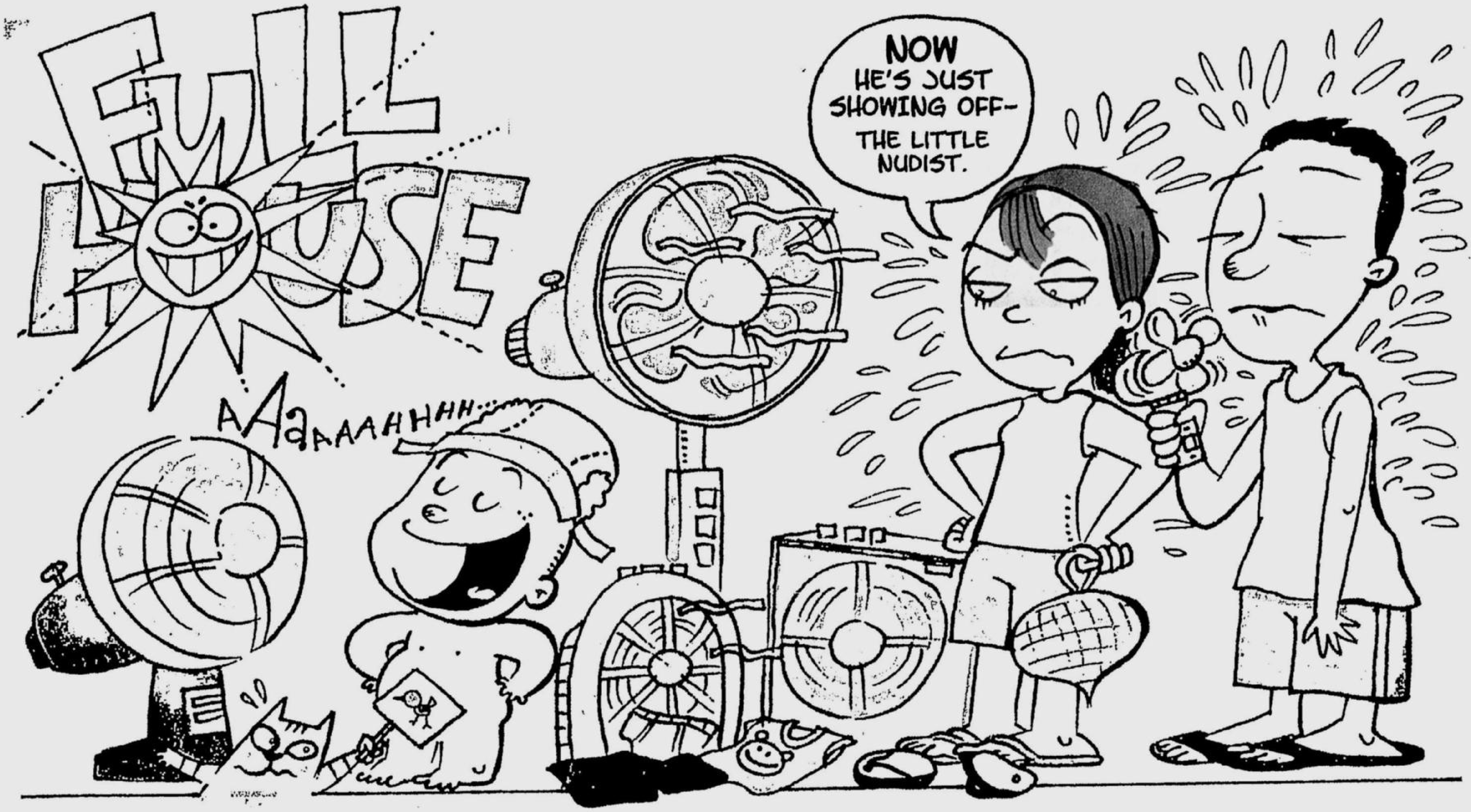
JIM DAVIS 5-7
BACON FRYING

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL HOUSE
AAaAAAHHHH...
NOW HE'S JUST SHOWING OFF- THE LITTLE NUDIST.

May 7, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

From siliconed starlet to unlikely feminist, Keanna Reeves is finally getting some respect

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

HE looks at the camera warily, her eyes telegraphing panic, her poses stiff and awkward. It took a while for her to finally relax. Could it just be the zits on her forehead that a staff assistant is now covering with powder?

But surely, Keanna Reeves has exposed more than just flawed skin 24/7 for 58 days on the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition." Aside from her fractured English that could have traveled the world through the Net, Keanna almost stole the scene from another housemate who was about to out himself: She peed in the bushes, right on primetime TV! This here's no shrinking violet, that's for sure.

To page 3

She has publicly admitted to being a former escort, had her breasts supersized for her trade, confessed to being a battered wife, peed on nationwide TV and goes around with an outrageous name. Is this any way to become a role model—and a willing symbol against sexual exploitation?

Why Alex Compton wants to stay, *p.4*

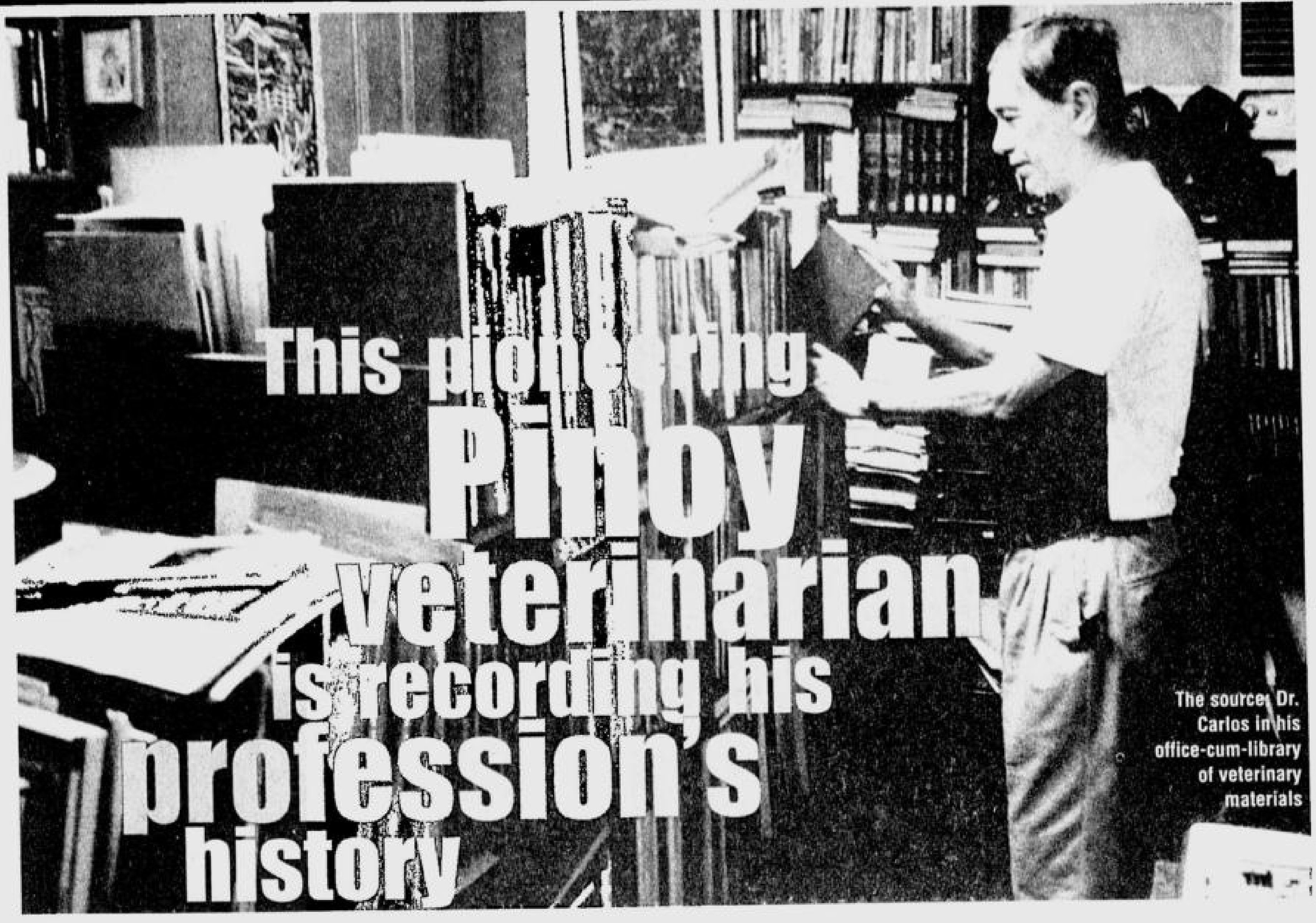
How Bert Duldulao rediscovered his art, *p.6*

People for the Planet

This pioneering Pinoy veterinarian is recording his profession's history

by Corazon A. Ong

photographs by Vicente Carreon



The source: Dr. Carlos in his office-cum-library of veterinary materials

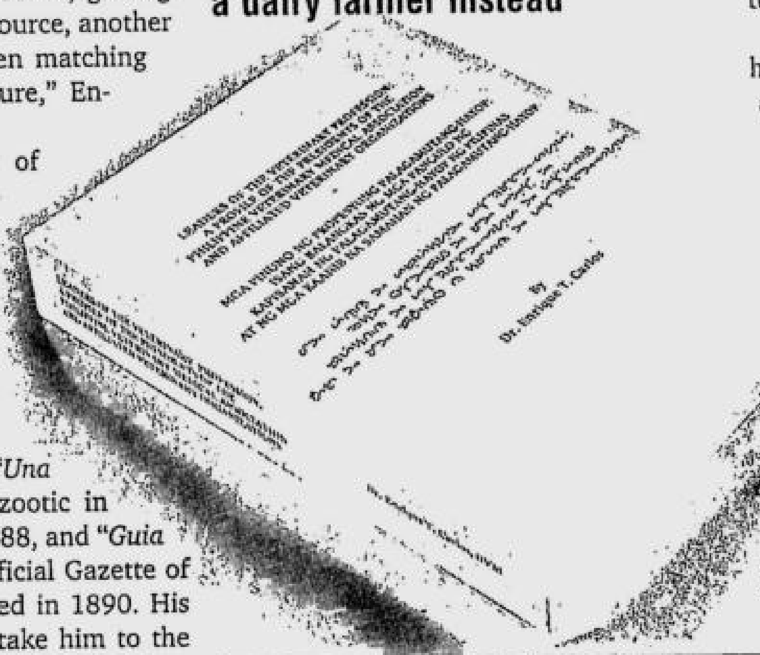
It seems only fitting that Dr. Enrique Carlos Jr., one of the country's most respected animal doctors, would write *the* comprehensive book on Philippine veterinary practice. And to think he almost became a dairy farmer instead

OUR years ago Dr. Enrique Carlos, Jr., owner of the Makati Dog and Cat Hospital in Bel-Air, was prompted to start writing a book on the history of veterinary profession in the Philippines—the first of its kind—because of the sorry state of reference materials he encountered on the subject. "Valuable materials are being lost in the sense that libraries are not well maintained. *Nasisira at nabubulok ang mga libro* (the books were rotting away) so I thought of doing something about it," he said. He had the materials photocopied, encoded, then saved in compact discs.

After that, he started putting the data together, sat down and wrote in between his practice. The book, titled "Leaders of the Veterinary Profession in the Philippines: A Profile of Presidents of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association and Affiliate Veterinary Associations," not only provides short notes on and photos of the country's leading veterinarians, starting from the Spanish and American times, but also talks about the profession which has been practised in the Philippines for 100 years now. The country's first batch of veterinarians came from the ranks of the Spanish army.

Scarce information

"It took me four years to finish the book because information was really scarce and far between. I was working like a detective, getting one bit of information from one source, another bit from another source and then matching the pieces to complete the picture," Enrique, Jr. said.



An avid reader and collector of Philippine historical books, Enrique Jr. would often go to libraries in his spare time, a favorite being the University of Santo Tomas Library, where he would read books in their original Spanish version. Two of the oldest reference materials he used in writing his book were "*Una Epizootia en Filipinas*" (An Epizootic in the Philippines), published in 1888, and "*Guia Oficial de las Islas Filipinas*" (Official Gazette of the Philippine Islands), published in 1890. His research, however, would also take him to the United States: Boston, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C. and Norfolk, Virginia, among others. "I found the McArthur memorabilia in Norfolk helpful."

He also corresponded with Elaine Engst, director and university archivist, division of rare and manuscript collections of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York as well as with Susanne Whitaker, veterinary reference librarian of the same school. He also got invaluable help from Dr. Ian K. Barker, curator of the CAV Barker Museum of Canadian Veterinary History at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

Transformed room

This doctor's love for books had him transform one room in his Makati clinic into an office-cum-library, where he keeps his collections and where he also wrote the bulk of the 700-page book. The book was released on February 23, 2006, in time for the 73rd convention of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) held in Camp John Hay, Baguio. Enrique Jr. served as PVMA president from 1983 to 1984.

He dedicated the book to two of the most influential persons in his life: Dr. Sixto Almeda Carlos, his grandfather, and Dr. Enrique Carlos, Sr., his father. While finishing his veterinary medicine course at the University of the Philippines in the mid-'60s, Enrique Jr. was working as animal handler cum janitor in their family-run animal clinic on Romualdez St., Ermita, Manila, the Carlos Dog and Cat Clinic. "That was how I initially got my Social Security System card," he said. Prior to graduation, he also worked for a few months at the Makati Small Animal Hospital. "*Ako ang taga-bantay ng mga kaso sa gabi*," he said. (I took care of the cases at night).

The Romualdez clinic, which was set up by his grandfather in 1927, was the first dog and cat clinic in the Philippines. It closed shop on August 31, 2005. When the old man retired in 1955, Enrique Sr. took over the business of running the clinic apart from starting the Makati hospital in 1963. Another clinic, also named Carlos Dog and Cat Clinic, was subsequently opened in Sucat, Parañaque in 1981. This is being managed by Enrique Jr.'s wife, Rhodora Carlos, who also happens to be a veterinarian.

Being a vet seems to be a legacy in the Carlos family, because three of the couple's four children also took up veterinary medicine in college but only one is a practicing vet, Dr. Sixto Enrique Carlos, who currently helps in running the Makati hospital. Apart from his wife and children, Enrique Jr. also has a stepbrother veterinarian, Tomas Enrique Carlos, now based in the United States. Uncanny as it may sound, Arsenio Directo, a son of *Mang* Emong, one of their animal handlers in the Romualdez clinic, also ended up becoming an animal doctor.

Family legacy: Dr. Carlos in his clinic

Family legacy

Given his family's involvement in the veterinary profession, perhaps it's only fitting that Enrique Jr. should end up writing the first book on the history of the profession in the country. Initially enrolled in Chemical Engineering at UST, he shifted to Veterinary Medicine after his grandmother persuaded him to do so. "She told me to continue the family legacy," he said.

It was a legacy that goes way back when he was just growing up. Exposure to animals early in life was a given in their family, with his grandfather holding clinic on the ground floor of their two-story house in Romualdez St. (formerly known as Marques de Comillas St.) while his parents, his siblings and some immediate relatives lived on the upper floor. "The earliest pet I could remember I had was a black and white fox terrier named Happy, whom we adopted after the owner left for the States."

He would also experience raising other pets, like fish and birds, notably finches, *mayang palay* and *kulasisi* (parrots). "Once I also kept a pet squirrel which the cat killed after I let the squirrel out of the cage so it could roam in the garden."

But his dream, he said, was to go into cattle and dairy farming "because I really like farming. But dairy farming is a 24-hour job, something I could not cope with," he recounted.

Dairy farming's loss thus became the gain of small animal practice. Under his supervision, the Makati hospital has, through the years, gained quite a following among animal lovers and owners, some of whom come from as far as Boracay, Lipa and Subic to have their animals attended by Enrique, Jr. or his son, Sixto Enrique, whom he is grooming to carry on the family legacy. Looks like there's still a lot of Carlos family history to be made in the veterinary profession.

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Sa US Embasi

Dito sa US Embasi
Kinalawang ang aking mga matang
Tinuligsa ng mga imaheng nangangarap
Makakita ng nyebe; matandang naka-wheelchair,
batang amerasian na karga ng kanyang ina,
mga young professionals na nagpa-praktis
ng English accent, mga nilalang
Na hindi ko matantiya kung
Anong puwersa ang sa kanila'y dito nagpadala.

"Probably you'll see snow there."

Sabi ng consul sabay ngiti at tango ng mga Pinoy
Habang nakapila sa mahabang prusisyon ng
Patagong panunumbat.
Magdala kaya ako ng minatamis na saging?
O maglagay sa garapon ng mga sangkap
Ng haluhalong magpapangilo ng aking ngipin?
Pagtawanan kaya ako ng mga Kanong
Nagtatanong kung ang mga Pilipino'y
Sa puno pa rin nakatira
o kung kumakain pa rin tayo ng aso kahit hindi piyesta?

Matapos ang kaliwa't kanang pila
At paghihintay na matawag ang numero
Upang hindi mapagkamalang mag-t-tnt o terorista,
Lalabas ng tarangkahang bakal
At aantabayanan ang pasaporte'y matatakan.
Puputaktihin muli't muli ang isipan
Kung marapat pa rin bang
Iwan ang sariling bayan.

Rommel Rodriguez

Keanna Reeves

...from page 1

But the sudden fame is disconcerting, even for this starlet who had started out by hostaging public attention. There's that outrageous screen name, the conspicuous siliconed assets, and a sex video posted on a blog reportedly taken and released by an ex-boyfriend.

In 2004, Keanna landed on page 1 for revealing that, as a former escort woman, her clients had included military men and government officials. The exposé led to a Senate investigation that was later scrapped when the starlet, dubbed *Kilabot ng Senado* by the media, refused to name the politicians involved in sex trafficking.

Hardly had she lived down that notoriety when Keanna again made the headlines—this time as darling of the *masa*, the PBB housemate who had garnered 571,607 text votes or 44.2 percent of the total number of votes, making her the big winner in the top-rating TV show. More, by donating the P1-million counterpart cash prize of her P4-million winnings in cash and prizes to the leftist women's organization Gabriela, she found herself being hailed as a latter-day feminist, the woman who refuses to be a victim, the escort girl turned role model for others in similar dire circumstances.

Is she ready for all that?

True to herself

Keanna looks bewildered by the question, taking a full minute before answering with the stock phrase that has so far summed up her mass appeal: "*Basta ang alam ko po, nagpakatotoo lang ako.* (All I know is, I was true to myself)," she says.

Not that it was easy reverting back to her real self, the person that Keanna had tried twice to leave behind—first by running away from home, and later, by changing her name.

Born 36 years ago in Danao City, Cebu, Janet Derecho Duterte is the second of five siblings born to an engineer and his teacher wife. Life was difficult enough with her father perennially out of work, but when he came home after a short stint abroad and assumed the child-rearing chores while his wife taught in school and sold Tupperware on the side, things could only get worse.

"He was very strict," recalls Keanna. He would throw water at her to wake her for school, which she hated, she claims. "All my siblings became professionals, but I've never been studious or smart. So my father would hit me because of my low grades. *Eh bubo nga, eh.* (But I'm dull-witted, and that's that.)"

To escape the oppressive household and having to go to college, Keanna married at 17. "He was 27 or 28 then, and had his own business. I thought I'd be the queen of my own home if I married him," she recalls of her husband. The marriage turned out to be a private calvary. "He would beat me up, point a gun at me, show me he's in control," she says in Filipino.

"I decided I needed to be happy more than I needed the money, so I bailed out and ran off to Manila," says Keanna. "My children were very young then and people said I was a bad mother because I abandoned them. But I didn't know anybody in Manila and had to work as a maid just to survive. How could I have supported my kids?"

She eventually met people who introduced her to the sex trade, she says, and she wound up being a kept woman ("*syota ng matatanda*") for four years, before becoming an escort girl ("a one-night stand") for two years. The money was good, she claims, with her earning from P5,000 to P10,000 a night. When she entered the movies (through the forgettable "Shut Up, I-Memorize *Mo 'Yan,*"), her fees went up to as much as P20,000, says Keanna.

Vulcanized assets

It helped that she had vulcanized her assets then from their 34-C bounty to a stupendous 36-D. But her screen name, she realizes now, made her a caricature. "My former manager chose that name, *ginawa niya akong katawa-tawa* (he made me a laughing stock). He didn't even give me a contract."

Despite her earnings, she hardly managed, Keanna says, because she had to support her former boyfriend. "I asked him if he wasn't affected by my being an escort, and he said, if I allow jealousy to get the better of me, how will we eat?"

The same naiveté ("*katangahan ko*") got her embroiled in the sex scandal controversy that had her testifying before the Senate, says Keanna. "I was interviewed on the TV talk show '*Kontrobersyal,*' and I just happened to mention my work. *Natisod nila yung* story (the reporter just stumbled on the story). I didn't know I'd get into trouble, I was just being true to myself. If the reporter had asked me to name my clients right then and there, I would have done so. I had no inkling of the legal consequences of my action."

Keanna's unwitting expose led her to meet Gabriela party list Rep. Liza Maza. "As a woman's party, Gabriela's main concern is the issue of prostitution," says Liza. "We knew from our on-going studies that new forms of prostitution were evolving and we had to understand these new developments for a more effective advocacy against sexual exploitation. When Keanna broke the silence on escort service as a form of prostitution, we became interested in the extent of its operation—how widespread it is, who are lured into this form of prostitution, the customers, the operators, etc."

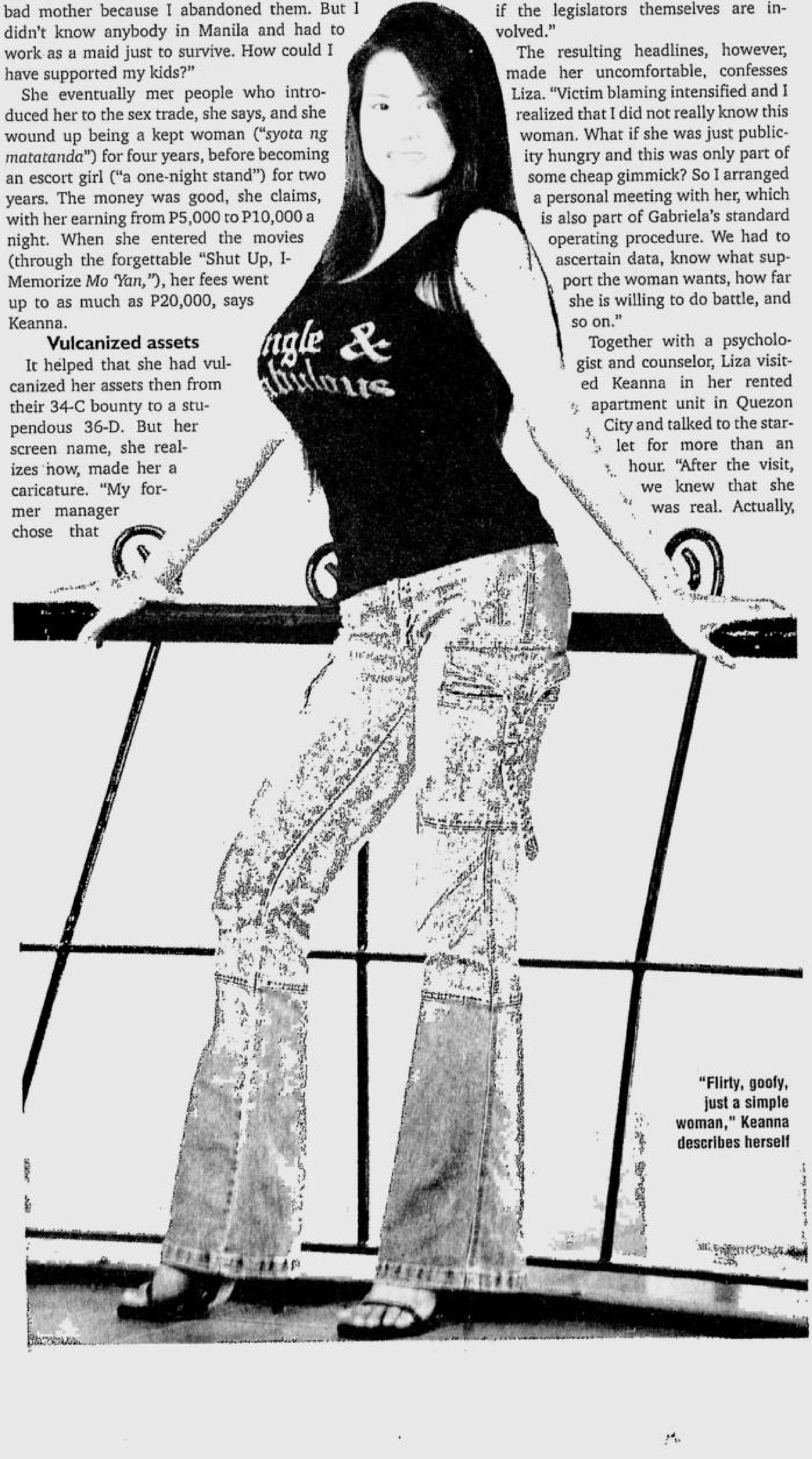
Courage

But Gabriela's initial support for Keanna met with cynicism, recalls Liza. "The usual reaction was blame the victim: She's just using us, people said; she's just a prostitute and has no credibility, it's just a diversionary tactic to take attention away from more important issues like the e-vat and wage increase, etc."

Despite the warnings, Liza commended Keanna for her courage. "I also said that prostitution is a serious problem that should be addressed by government and that we cannot effectively address it if the legislators themselves are involved."

The resulting headlines, however, made her uncomfortable, confesses Liza. "Victim blaming intensified and I realized that I did not really know this woman. What if she was just publicity hungry and this was only part of some cheap gimmick? So I arranged a personal meeting with her, which is also part of Gabriela's standard operating procedure. We had to ascertain data, know what support the woman wants, how far she is willing to do battle, and so on."

Together with a psychologist and counselor, Liza visited Keanna in her rented apartment unit in Quezon City and talked to the starlet for more than an hour. "After the visit, we knew that she was real. Actually, while we were in her place, she received several text messages and calls from other escort girls expressing their support."



"Flirty, goofy, just a simple woman," Keanna describes herself

PDI PHOTO

Controversial: Testifying before the Senate in September 2004

The Keanna exposé, adds Liza, became an occasion to look into the current law on prostitution that only criminalizes the prostituted women but not the customers nor the establishments involved in the business. The congresswoman then filed House Resolution 124 calling for an investigation on the use of the escort service business as a front for prostitution.

When she sensed that the resulting Senate hearings were headed towards pressuring Keanna to name her clients, Liza met with the starlet for the second time. "She went to my office at the Batasan incognito to ask for advice. She said that as a result of her Senate appearance, she had been getting death threats. I told her not to name names because she might end up dead, and I meant literally and figuratively. We also offered her the services of our lawyer."

Returning the favor

Liza later filed House Bill 4804, to ensure protective measures and support for other victims of prostitution and penalties for its perpetrators. The bill is being consolidated with other measures on prostitution.

Returning the favor, Keanna named Gabriela as her counterpart charity to receive the P1-million cash prize. Forthwith, the group mobilized its claimed 100,000 membership nationwide, as far as Arakan, North Cotabato and Jolo, says Liza. "The text was agitational," she adds. "*Tipong,* a text for Keanna is a show of support for women's rights at Gabriela." After all, she adds, Keanna gave a face to the group's advocacy on the issue of sexual exploitation.

Although they have yet to receive the cash as of this writing, Liza says Gabriela will use the money for its crisis intervention program on violence against women.

"Keanna's public pronouncements were clear: She had chosen Gabriela to help support its advocacy and service work for women victims and survivors of violence."

After she won, Keanna visited Liza in Congress and to the surprise of many, twitted President Arroyo. Cebu, the starlet's hometown, has always been considered GMA's bailiwick. Speaking in Pilipino, the winning PBB housemate greeted the President on her birthday and said, "You know ma'am, I've always been a strong woman since I was a child. I thought that was the way to fight off problems in life. But I've been proven wrong. One should be strong, but also have a heart to understand others. So open your heart, Madam. Please understand that in any crisis, *walang masamang kabayo kung mabuti ang kutsero.* (A horse is only as good as the one holding its reins)."

A fighter

Her action earned Keanna a glowing endorsement from Liza: "Keanna won because she is smart, hard-working and a fighter. She gained popular support because people see her as a natural. Being real in this country where the highest official of the land is perceived to be a fake, is indeed a breath of fresh air."

Liza sees the starlet as an asset in Gabriela's advocacy on women and says that the group is orienting her on the organization's work. But she is not a joiner, demurs Keanna. "I'll always be here for them," she says. "If they need my help, they can just call me and I'll come. But I have to work full-time for my children. *Trabaho muna.*"

The need for a steady income drove her to join the Big Brother house, says Keanna. "I saw the show as a chance for me to erase the escort girl tag and find work." Being confined in the PBB house from Feb. 5 until March 31 was, she says, one of the best things that happened to her. "People have said that staying inside the PBB house is a sacrifice. *Anong sakripisyo?* Free board and lodging *na nga*, air-con *pa!* As for being isolated from the outside world, well, I don't mind. *Sanay akong mag-isa, ba't pa ako mag-iinarte* (I'm used to being alone, why should I make a fuss?)"

Keanna was not an instant hit with the other housemates, however, who wanted to evict her immediately for sitting on her ass while they shared the housework. "*Eh ang dami-dami naman namin, ba't pa ako makikipag-agawan sa trabaho? Plastikan na yun.* (But we were so many, why should I try to compete for the chores? That would be so fake). Besides, I want to do the chores that make me happy—like cooking. I hate mopping the floor and cleaning the toilet."

But the most difficult directives for her during their confinement in the PBB house, Keanna says, were the wake-up call and the five-minute shower. "I really sleep a lot, so getting up early in the morning was a drag." She also takes 30-minute showers, she says, using all the bath essentials she can afford. "*Kahit di makakain, dapat kumpleto ang gamit sa banyo. Kahit walang pera, basta mabango ako, okey na* (I don't mind starving as long as I have enough bath stuff. More than money, I need to smell good.)"

Not that personal hygiene had always been a priority; sometimes the call of nature prevails. "I really had to go," she says of her public irrigation incident just when fellow housemate Rustom Padilla was about to out himself. "I thought if I went back to the house just to pee, it would take too long and I didn't want to keep Rustom waiting. It would spoil the moment."

"KFC"

She had no game plan, says Keanna; she just wanted to be herself, and if that meant confronting other housemates who ticked her off, she was fine with it. "*Palaban talaga ako* (I'm a fighter)," she says, referring to her admonition to Mich Dulce, whom she had called a "KFC" (actually, KSP or *kulang sa pansin*, attention-grabber). She just wanted to teach her a lesson, she says of the fashion designer and band member. "She's a spoiled brat and the others indulged her. But I thought, if I didn't tell her off, who would? She should have known what she was getting into. She's already 24 so there was no excuse to break down when things got tough." (Mich later volunteered to leave the PBB House, citing stress and how it was aggravating her asthma.)

Keanna's rebellious streak also put her on a head-on collision with Big Brother, the disembodied voice giving orders inside the PBB House. "I was ordered to remove (reggae artist) Budoy Maraviles' headpiece and I didn't want to. I know how important it was to him and I respected that," she says.

For disobeying Big Brother, Keanna forfeited a Hong Kong trip with her children. "I thought, *luho lang naman yun* (it's just an indulgence), I can save up for it. But respecting others, that's important." For two days, Big Brother did not talk to her because of the incident, she says, but she has no regrets. "We're not robots who'll follow orders blindly. Besides, it was Big Brother who told us to love and respect one another in the first place and now he's asking us to disregard that? So you see, Big Brother makes mistakes. He's only human like us. He is not God."

If Keanna is big on respect, it's probably because she's finally earned it on the show. It's the best part of her winnings, says this woman who, previous to her PBB stint, was often spoofed for her name and cantilevered breasts. "Fame is something I can have even through dubious means. But respect, now that's something you can't buy."

No more flesh

People now know her better, she says. "They no longer regard me only as a former escort. I think it's also because I've changed the way I dress. I realize now that you have to work at getting respect, and how you dress is part

To page 7

by *Jasmine W. Payo*

Why Alex Compton wants to stay

EDWIN BACASMAS

Before he came to the Philippines, this cager thought life was all about being hip and cool. But this son of Peace Corps volunteers soon found a new culture that he loves so much, his biggest dream is to be accepted as one of its own

HE'S so nice he actually compliments his opponents on the court. But Alex Compton, shooting guard of the Montaña Jewels in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL), claims he's had a behavioral turnaround. Before he came to the Philippines eight years ago, Comptom says he lived a typical jock's life in the United States: "I wanted to be popular, to be cool with everybody, just party a lot and have a great time. I was a big drinker." His main motivation in life then, he adds, was "to be a good basketball player, have a good time, have the prettiest girlfriend."

Not that the player's previous disposition matters at all to coaches, players and fans who equally favor his solid game and gentle demeanor. The fact that he speaks Tagalog so fluently has endeared him as well to basketball-loving Pinoys.

"I came to the Philippines with no expectations. I was excited to play but I didn't expect to be here this long. It was like, let's see how it goes," recalls Compton.

The six-foot cager says it actually took some time before he decided to play basketball overseas. Although his American parents worked as Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines, he hardly knew anything about his birth country. "I danced the *tinikling* when I was eight," he says with a laugh. "But other than that, wearing a *barong* and my parents having Filipino friends, I didn't know much about the Philippines. But my parents told me stories, like how my brother spoke Tagalog."

Excited to play

Serendipity helped things along. On January 1996, Compton learned about Philippine basketball while playing for the varsity team of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. "I was chatting with my assistant coach who said that in 1991, he played in the Philippines. And I said that was where I was born. I wasn't even thinking about it, I just said it in passing. And he said, 'You were born there? You know you can play there? Basketball is huge there.' And it has always been my dream to play basketball overseas," recalls Compton.

People then suggested that he quit college. But Compton, a junior student then, knew there was no way he was trading his Ivy League education even for the sport he passionately loves. "Cornell University is a great school and I said I'm going to graduate first, and then I'll go," he says. "But I also started reading about Philippine history more and a lot of other stuff. I was really planning it out. I was just so excited to come."

Compton thought moving to the Philippines would be similar to living in Thailand, where he stayed with his family for a year.

"When we lived in Thailand, we lived in the northeast. There were no Americans and nobody speaks English. I had to learn the language. That was what I thought it was going to be like, nobody speaks English and it's going to be hard," he notes.

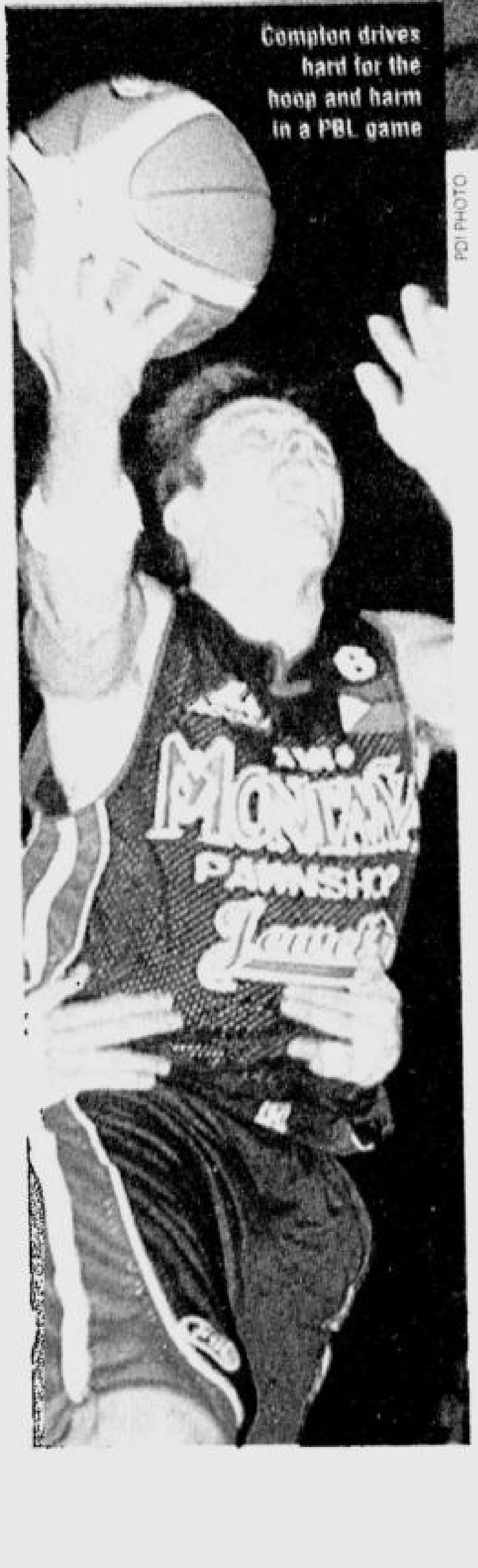
Compton certainly had no expectations of an easy life. Yet surprisingly, that's exactly what he got."When I got here, everybody speaks English so well, there's English on TV. There are American restaurants here and there. I thought, this isn't too much of an adjustment, this is really easy," he says.

Still, the amiable shooting guard made sure to learn the local language. "My mom's a linguist. I was raised thinking that if you're going to live in a foreign country, you have to learn the language there just to communicate and to be respectful of that culture," Compton points out. "It's kind of in my family's background that if you live somewhere, you need to learn the language to understand the common person and interact with them," he adds.

Tagalog trouble

Compton admits that he wasn't too diligent with his Tagalog lessons in his first year. But while playing in the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA), he admittedly felt like an outsider. So he picked up the language as quickly as he piled up points on court. "I got a tutor and on my second year, I had two to three lessons a week. I also asked everybody on my team and my friends to speak to me in Tagalog. If I don't understand, I'll ask them. So the first two phrases I learned from my tutor were '*Hindi ko naintindihan*' (I don't understand) and '*Ano ibig sabihin niyan?*' (What does that mean?) I used to say that like 30 times a day. And if I just got five words a day, that helped," he muses.

Things were different on court where nothing, it seemed, could go wrong for Compton as he led his team to the championship and captured the Most Valuable Player award. Unfortunately, his local stint came to a halt as the fledgling pro league folded up in 2002. Quite fittingly, Compton bid the MBA goodbye with a historic three-point shot that turned out to be the last basket for the league.



Compton drives hard for the hoop and harm in a PBL game

PDI PHOTO

With his impressive local debut, Compton became a prized recruit among other teams from the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA). However, citizenship issues have been stalling his entry into the premier pro league. "Hopefully the PBA lets me in. If they don't, I really understand," says Compton, who has been playing for the amateurs with the Montaña Jewels in the PBL.

Competitive fire

"I still really love to play. I love practicing, I love playing to get better, I like the competition," he notes.

In fact, at 32, Compton hasn't lost his streaky touch. Even with a recent calf injury, he still buries those big shots at crunch time. "I really still have that competitive fire, that drive. I'd love the challenge of trying to guard (PBA) guys like Mark Caguioa, Dondon Hontiveros, Olsen Racela, Jeff Cariaso, Jimmy Alapag. It's a tremendous challenge but I love that, it's fun," he says.

Some well-meaning friends have suggested that he try out in the National Basketball Association (NBA) in the US, but Compton quickly puts the idea into perspective. "There are about 40 jobs a year that open up in the NBA. There are 4,000 people who get struck by lightning every year. So you're a hundred times more likely to get struck by lightning than get in the NBA. It's hard to get in that league. It's the best of the best in the world. I'm not one of them and that's fine," he says candidly.

Although Compton also has several product endorsements, he admittedly isn't keen on entering showbiz either. "There's a limit to what I can do," he points out.

Right now, Compton would rather stick to what he knows best. "I'm really just holding out for the PBA," he says. " I've already talked to a coach I'm going to train with in the States because I want to get better. I've also planned out my summer specifically for the PBA because if I'm given the luxury, that opportunity to play in the PBA, I want to be ready. I want to be at my best."

The uncertainty is undoubtedly stressful, but Compton surprisingly still wants to stay in the Philippines. "The cultural personality of the Filipinos really fits with who I am as a person, which is laidback. Like, 'let's joke around, let's have fun, let's hang out,'" he says. "It's weird. I really feel like this is my home," he continues. "I always wanted to be a dual citizen, but according to the law, I can't be. But I'd rather live here than in the States. I love the Philippines, I love the Filipinos. I just feel like this is the country where I could have the most significant, positive impact for most of my life." Q

LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

To Be Loved in Return

She became so dedicated to her job that she didn't have time for me anymore. She told me I didn't understand her. How could I, when she didn't even talk to me?

Dear Joe,

It all started last November when my best friend called me up. He was having a drinking session with his wife and friends, and asked me to join them. He had introduced me years ago to Pam, whom I had a crush on, and when he gave the phone to her, everything changed. We talked like old friends. Pam gave me her home number and I started calling her every day until I fell in love with her. Finally, the day came when we became a couple. I was so happy. Last January 6, it was the birthday of my best friend's wife, and everybody was busy having fun. I took the microphone, and everybody thought that I was going to sing. Instead, I gave a little speech about my girlfriend Pam, and finally I asked her to marry me. Everybody cheered and I cried when she said yes. It was the happiest moment of my life.

When Pam and I got together she had this family problem that I understood and accepted. I had no reservations, because she was my fiancée, and I was willing to be there for her. She received a job offer from one of the prestigious hotels in Makati, so I told her to grab it, and that she could do it. But she became so dedicated to her job that she didn't have time for me anymore. It got even worse when she was transferred to banquet—no text messages and no phone calls. We started fighting, and she told me I didn't understand her. How could I, when she didn't even talk to me? Every time I text her, she never answers. When I asked her if she still loves me, she said she didn't know. I tried breaking up with her, but she told me to wait. Wait for what?

It's been weeks since we last talked. I do miss her. I can't stop thinking about her, but I think I'm the only one who still believes in this relationship. I don't know what to do.

Willie

Dear Willie,

Pam's disinterest could be a manifestation of an inner crisis that she is probably going through right now. Saying that she doesn't know if she loves you is another way of saying she doesn't love you. Being indifferent to your feelings and not reacting to a break-up means she couldn't care less.

Honestly, Willie, it looks like she has her own world now, and whatever it was that you thought you had when she said yes to your marriage proposal means nothing to her now. She could probably be going through a very difficult time in her life now, but I believe that the least she can do is be honest with you about what she truly feels and not keep you hanging and waiting for something that probably won't happen anymore. If telling someone that we love him or her is essential, then I think letting that person know if that love isn't there anymore is equally important.

Willie, I know how much you love Pam and how much you are willing to do anything for her, but you have to realize that there comes a time in a relationship when simply loving someone isn't enough, when being loved in return becomes as vital as loving the other person. If Pam doesn't love you anymore, then there is no more reason for you to stay. The only way to stop hurting is to stop wanting, and the only way to stop wanting is to start accepting that she is probably not the same person anymore. Then and only then can you move on to finding the happiness that becomes truly rewarding when shared with the person who loves us in the same way.

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Climate Change and Emerging Diseases
Toxic Chemical and Hazardous Wastes
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REQUIREMENTS

Orgs, clubs, societies or councils should submit five (5) copies of the following:

- An accomplished Entry Form
- A one-page certification attesting to the existence and veracity of the information submitted
  - for In-School Youth Organizations, a certification from the Office of Student Affairs
  - for Community-based, Out-of-School or Working Youth Organizations, a certification from the LGU/barangay or gov't agency
- A one-page short profile of the organization featuring a brief description, its nature and background, programs and track record
- A three-page profile of the Project Entry, featuring a brief but descriptive account or narrative that will illustrate the program/project.
- 3-page project documentation (photos, testimonies of partners or beneficiaries, certificates, etc.)

- Organizations shall be judged on the basis of a recent program or project that made an impact on the community and which best reflects the efforts of young people as partners in nation-building.
- A continuing project entry (or one that started in 2005) must either be completed, or a major portion must have been undertaken by the deadline.
- Registration in the NYC's Youth Organization Registration Program (YORP) is mandatory; registration papers may be submitted together with the project entry.
- Recipients of other awards are eligible.
- Previous TAYO winners and finalists may still participate, provided they submit a project entry different from the one submitted in the preceding search.
- All decisions of the TAYO Screening Committee and Panel of Judges are final.
- All materials submitted to the TAYO Secretariat automatically become property of the organizers.

SEARCH CRITERIA

- IMPACT *of the Project Entry to the community (improvement in literacy, sanitation, health, income, etc.)*
- SOCIAL MOBILIZATION *(involvement of the community, especially the youth in planning, implementing and evaluating the program or project)*
- INNOVATIVENESS *(introduction/application of new technologies, uniqueness of services or products, promotion of unique or indigenous ways or materials)*
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Artwatch

by Gino de la Paz

RYAN LIM

Roberto Duldulao's homecoming to his Art

IS paintings possess a cool, hyperactive curiosity, like Google Earth maps redone almost exclusively in right angles and muddy Play-Doh colors. It's the kind of verve you'd expect from a twentysomething up-and-comer. Which makes Roberto D. Duldulao—who considers himself a fairly new artist at 61—the perfect poster man for career crossovers.

Born in Ilocos Norte in 1945, Bert moved to Manila 16 years later to live with older brother Manuel, just in time for freshman year at the University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts. Still armed with brushes and acrylic paint, he transferred to the University of the Philippines Diliman in the second semester. The constant transitions, both small and seismic, would eventually become more than icebreaker material.

A little farther into the horizon, in 1962 to be exact, Bert joined several exhibits. "Professors Jose Joya and Rod. Paras-Perez would choose the students who could participate in the modern art categories," he says. The young artist was given the chance to participate in almost all categories, including still life, landscape, and advanced composition. "I was surprised that my friend and fellow artist Mars Galang and I, who were freshmen at that time, were included in advanced composition. That inspired us to continue with our kind of art-abstract. Very few were into abstract at that time."

Bert would later be among nine students from various levels who were handpicked to go on a traveling show to other universities in Manila. The art caravan often ended at the Ateneo Art Gallery, a place that holds corresponding good memories for Bert.

"Galang, Fred Liongoren, and I were at the Ateneo Art Gallery one afternoon when Mr. Fernando Zobel asked us if we had paintings we'd like to show. We said yes and he went with us back to UP," Bert recalls, smiling. "I was very surprised when he said he liked mine, asked how much it was worth and promptly took it while the paint was still fresh!" He felt so high he couldn't even remember if he took his friends out to party. As fate would have it, Zobel bequeathed this same painting to the Ateneo Art Gallery.

Positive reviews

But despite getting positive reviews early on, Bert had to drop out of school to earn a living. He had been bitten by the love bug by then, having met Rosemarie Medina. From 1963 till 1968, he worked as an illustrator, layout artist and art director for several publications, among them the Weekly Nation with Larry Alcala and Marketing Horizons magazine under then-editor Horacio Paredes.

"Lay-outing was all manual work then," he recalls. " The titles were pasted letter by letter. Typesetting was called linotype. My job as a layout artist was tedious: pencil in and erase, measure the length of text, fit it in the layout sheet, draw a box for the pictures and if it doesn't fit, ask the editor to fix it," he adds, looking back on those pre-Photoshop days. "Nowadays with computers, available software and the web, artists can do almost anything by clicking the mouse. I wish we had these during our time."

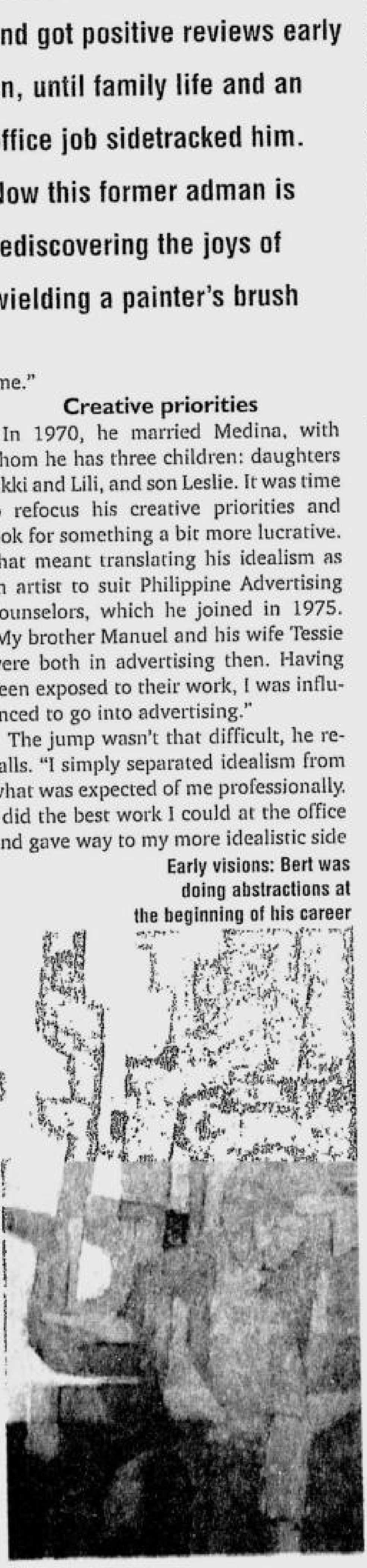
He studied to be an artist, and got positive reviews early on, until family life and an office job sidetracked him. Now this former adman is rediscovering the joys of wielding a painter's brush

Creative priorities

In 1970, he married Medina, with whom he has three children: daughters Vikki and Lili, and son Leslie. It was time to refocus his creative priorities and look for something a bit more lucrative. That meant translating his idealism as an artist to suit Philippine Advertising Counselors, which he joined in 1975. "My brother Manuel and his wife Tessie were both in advertising then. Having been exposed to their work, I was influenced to go into advertising."

The jump wasn't that difficult, he recalls. "I simply separated idealism from what was expected of me professionally. I did the best work I could at the office and gave way to my more idealistic side when I was face to face with my canvas." Their topshelf accounts included Marlboro, Ginebra, BPI, Magnolia, and San Miguel Beer, whose endorser then was comedian Bert "Tawa" Marcelo.

Early visions: Bert was doing abstractions at the beginning of his career



While moving up from artist to senior art director, Bert also made other visual statements by handling the layout for a number of coffee table books. Purita Kalaw Ledesma was a client; so was his brother, Manny, who was into painting in the '60s as well. "He started to write books about art. 'Contemporary Philippine Art' in 1972 and 'The Philippine Art Scene' in 1977, and the rest is history."

Spiritual rewards

It's hard to imagine an artist holding down anything as prosaic as an office job, but Bert did it, even logging in some time as art director at Memac Advertising in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia some time in 1988. Back in the country for good in '96, he finally turned his back on his day job to focus on painting, which he describes as "something more spiritually rewarding." He's been in advertising for more than 23 years, Bert qualifies. "I was probably tired by then."

As a member of both Sining Marikina and Aquarellists, Bert believes that good abstract art has an unmistakable sense of depth and power that transfixes the viewer, so "he can't walk away from it without being dragged."

In the solitude of his Antipolo City studio, the artist likes to hone his skills quietly and glean inspiration from his favorite abstract expressionists De Kooning, Kline, Brooks, Motherwell and Hoffman.

Since Bert's first one-man show at the Heritage Art Gallery in 2005, the muse has certainly been hands-down urban. "My first show was about what I saw when I was in Jeddah. When I came home for a vacation, I saw the land and the sea from the sky," he says. Now, it has become reversed. He sees architecture while firmly entrenched on land. Twenty of his paintings on this theme are featured in his show, "Images of a Rising Metropolis."

The artist is about to assume another role: that of homecoming son. "My next show in 2007 is about going back to my roots in Ilocos Norte, titled 'Road to Home.'"

Roberto D. Duldulao's second one-man show, "Images of a Rising Metropolis," runs from May 9 to 18 at the Heritage Art Gallery, 4th Level Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, tel.no. 634-2436.

Poetry

Hinawakan Ko Ang Katahimikan

Pagkatapos
dalhin ng hangin
ang iyong paalam,
hinawakan ko ang katahimikan
at ibinalot
sa kislap ng alak,
itinali sa riles
ng liwanag ng buwan,
at ikinulong
sa apat na sulok
ng kuwadernong
naglalaman ng mga iginuhit
nating sandali
at itinapat sa aking dibdib
upang sumayaw
sa ritmo ng aking pulso
hanggang sa marinig
ang pagpitik
ng gatilyo
ng kalungkutan.

Marlon Hacla

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@ inquirer.com.ph>

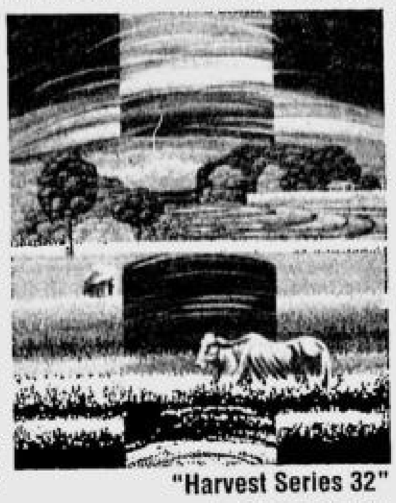
This Week

Art

Closer, a series of huge frames by Maya Muñoz depicting a personal tale of a woman's ascent to the peaks of her obsession as a lover; until May 14 at Hiraya Gallery, 530 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila. For details, call 523-3331.

Borderless World, a traveling exhibit of works depicting the Philippines, its culture, landscape, festivities, traditions, religiosity and people by Aris Bagtas, George Banawa, Noel Catacutan, Rafael Cusi, Giovannie dela Rosa, Rene Robles and Konn Salao, until May 10 at The Boston Art Gallery, 72 Boston St., Cubao, QC.

A Window to Her Realm, an painting exhibit translating the different facets of a woman by Ed Otis Oronos at Gallery Genesis, 4/L, SM Megamall A until May 18.



"Harvest Series 32" by Giovanni dela Rosa, on exhibit at The Boston Gallery

Cinema

The Goethe-Institut Manila, in cooperation with the German Embassy and the Embassy of Israel, presents **A Tribute to Humanity and Tolerance**, a retrospective of German producer Artur Brauner's films. The list includes "Morituri," "Europa, Europa," "The Plot to Assassinate Hitler," "Witness Out of Hell," "Charlotte S.," "Hanussen," "A Love in Germany," "After Your Decrees," "Angry Harvest" and "The Rose Garden." All films will be screened at the Goethe-Institut Manila's new premises at the 5th floor, Adamson Center, 121 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. They will also be screened daily at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the UP Film Institute from May 15 to 19. Select films will be screened at Greenbelt 1 on May 15. All screenings are open to the public. For screening schedules, visit www.goethe.de/manila.

Atbp

The Big Binondo Food Wok. Join guide Ivan ManDy as he horses around and takes visitors to discover the culinary and historical delights of Manila's Chinatown. on May 13 and 27. Meet inside the Binondo Church at 1 p.m. Slots limited. For details, log on to www.oldmanilawalks.com or text 0917-3291622.

Bounce Parties, the first indoor Party and Play inflatable venue, is now offering a 3-in-1 **summer workshop on arts and crafts, drawing and dance**. Theater arts also available. Set for May 15-29. Contact 655-04-24, 916-37-60 or 0917-7934229 for more details.

Anvil Publishing Inc. releases **Fallen Cradle: Parents on the Loss of A Child** edited by Agnes Prieto with Ricardo De Ungria. The book is a sharing of a most painful journey-that of confronting and accepting the death of one's child and the struggle to live again. It puts together contributions from an interesting mix of personalities such as Sen. Pia Cayetano, Gina De Venecia, writers Gilda Cordero Fernando and Cathy Guballa, designer Wynn Wynn Ong, among others. The book is now available in National Bookstore and Powerbooks nationwide.

Tanghalang Pilipino is now **accepting applicants for its Actors' Company** for the 20th theater season. Auditions will be on May 13 and 20, 4 to 8 p.m. at the Bulwagang Amado Hernandez (Conference Room), Upper Basement, CCP Main Building. Auditionees must be at least 18 years old. They must prepare a 3-minute monologue in Filipino from a published foreign or local play, any song of their choice, a short movement piece and must be able to deliver a joke. Those interested may hand-carry their resumé with 2x2 photo (or bigger) or send them to the TP office at the 2nd Flr. Production Design Center Bldg. (behind CCP Main Building) CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, or email to: ccptanghalan@yahoo.com For inquiries, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620 / 1621.

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde's School of Professional and Continuing Education offers **professional development modules** starting May 20. Modules offered are: Restaurant Marketing, Real Estate Planning and Development, Merchandise Management and Store Display, Procurement Law and Contract Management, and International Business Environment. For human resource management and training-related programs, the following modules are offered: Human Resource Operations and IT, Strategic Organization Development, and Strategic Training and Development. Marketing and events-related modules are Marketing Management, Dynamics of Marketing Services, and Event Coordination. Classes are held every Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at DLS-CSB's Angelo King International Center, Arellano Ave. cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila. For details, call 400-5425, 523-8888 loc. 341-342 or email space@dls-csb.edu.ph.

X-manila

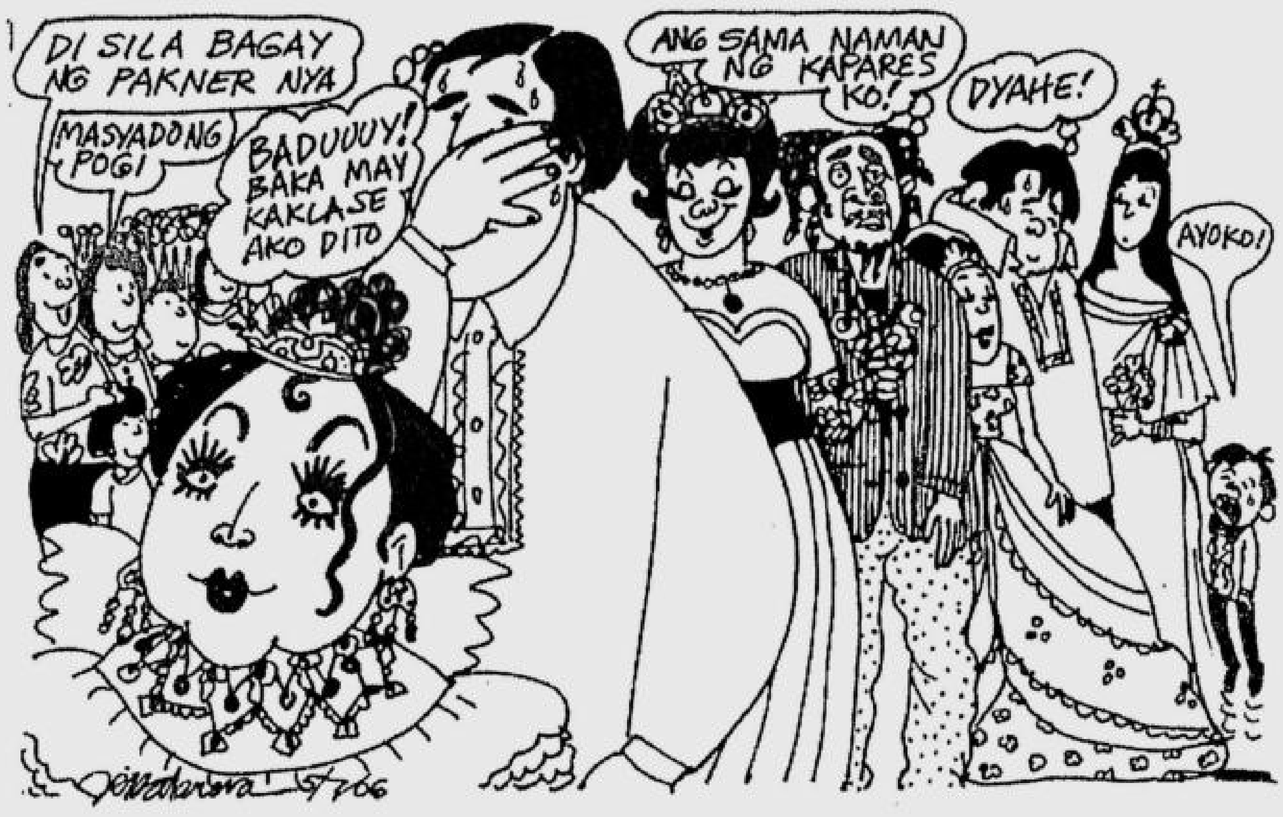
Leaps and Bounds: A Youth Leadership Adventure Camp kicks off on May 9-12 and May 16-19, 2006 at Lagos del Sol, Lake Caliraya in Laguna. Each action packed day includes activities like high and low ropes courses, nature projects, raft building, arts and crafts, night treks, adventure races, campfires and much more. Open to youths ages 9-18 years, Leaps and Bounds is a fun, challenging and exciting experience to meet new friends, work better with a team and discover more about yourself. Call 750-8682 to 83 or 0918-9045581 for package rates and registration.

Goethe-Institut Manila screens "The Plot to Assassinate Hitler" by Artur Brauner

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Escorts


DI SILA BAGAY NG PAKNER NYA
MASYADONG POGI
BADUUUY! BAKA MAY KAKLASE AKO DITO
ANG SAMA NAMAN NG KAPARES KO!
DYAHE!
AYOKO!

Keanna Reeves

...from page 3

of that. I no longer need to show so much flesh to get attention. I don't have to put on too much make-up *o mag-ay*-fort (effort) *na maging maganda*. Now people know the real me—*kikay, komedyante, simple lang* (flirty, goofy, simple), someone who only wants to get a decent job for her children."

The PBB experience definitely gave her a newfound faith in God, says Keanna. "I think God has a purpose for me, so He made me and my ex boyfriend part ways." Rustom led her back to religion, she adds, and so did *Ate* Coney Reyes, another Renewed Christian, who asked her to read the Bible everyday. "I told her I couldn't understand it, *ang hirap basahin kasi puro* thou *ang sinasabi*. But she said I should just persist and that's what I do, if only to show God how grateful I am for His blessings. Imagine, *sa dami ng taong naghihirap at gustong maging artista, bakit ako pa? Sobra-sobrang grasya na ito*." (Of all the people wanting to enter showbiz, it had to be me. This is just too much.)

The blessings keep coming, says Keanna. Aside from her guesting stints, she's doing a sitcom with Bea Alonso tentatively titled, "*Maging Sino Ka Man*," and the movie "I Wanna Be Happy" with Seiko films. "I can't do drama; *me punto kasi ako*," she says in her thick Cebuano accent.

Almost perfect

Life would have been perfect, she adds, if only she could have her two boys, aged 17 and 7, with her. "But I have to work and I'm afraid I can't look after them full time. *Baka mabarkada lang* (they might get into the wrong crowd)," sighs Keanna. The children stay with her father in Cebu, she says, because her estranged husband now has another family. "Actually, we can have our marriage annulled, because I was only 17 then." But she'll definitely have her boys over when they get to college, she adds, smiling.

In the meantime, she's saving up for their future, putting her winnings in the bank and hardly changing her lifestyle. "My Samsung phone is the same and my car is still the second-hand Mazda I've had since 1997," says Keanna. The only additions are the blouses she's had to buy for her TV guestings, and a driver she had to hire. "I've had a lot of money when I was an escort girl, so I'm not dazzled by it all," she says of her PBB winnings, which include P1 million for herself, a condo unit from Chateau Valenzuela, Promac appliances, a Red-Fox laptop computer and a Sony DVD camera.

Despite the 180-degree turn in her life, Keanna says her dreams remain simple. "I want to send my children to school, invest my money in business, break into showbiz. *Gusto ko lang maging mabuting tao at makahanap ng matinong* partner (I just want to be a good person and to find a good partner)." ◘

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, May 7, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		Aawitan Kita			
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song	SCQ Kids			The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Sharon	Pinoy Big Brother	Trip Na Trip			
AXN		A Knight's Tale					Samsung Sports World	WRC 2006 Argentina		Gamemax (Season II)	Mondo Magic Singapore	Sports Disaster VI		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Pet Alien	Tom & Jerry Show	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	Camp Lazlo	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Megas XLR	Courage The Cowardly Dog		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Battle B-Daman	Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinemax				Everything That Rises			Fading Memories (5:40 PM)				Just Cause (7:20 PM)			Happy Campers			Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind		
CNN		World News	Art Of Life	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Art Of Life	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Content/ Detective	Takedown	Law & Order		What Should You Do?		The Closer		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order/Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice					
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies-Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ETC		American Dreams 2		Rated Oh! 4	Insider Weekend	Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 4		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip/ Tuck 3		Rated Oh!	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blowout 2		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		Cold Turkey		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	The Biggest Loser		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Kakabaka-boo		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel										Just Cause		Child Of Our Time 2002							
HBO		Little Black Book (3:15 PM)				Going For Broke			A Cinderella Story			The Big Preview	Beverly Hills Cop			The Missing (10:10PM)			
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	GPX Cyber Formula	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Super Yoyo	Ragnarok	Musumet	The Slayers	Barom One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator	Hero TV Theatrex	Dragons	Fire & Ice	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Zenki	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Bakbakan Sa Barangay Patok				Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Everybody Hates Chris	Arrested Development	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Family Guy	Jack Yard	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network		Smart Solutions	Country Style	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special			E! Entertainment Special		French Lieutenant's Woman				Equinox Trends
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	Massive	MTV News	Get Hitched	Homecoming	Laguna Beach		Pimp My Ride		Punk'D	06 MAA Road to Bangkok	The 2006 MTV Asia Awards Main Show					MTV Hits	MTV Screen	Sessions
MYX	Top Picks	Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News		OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		Marine Machines: Pro Dive		Secret Bible The Special				Planet Football World Cup Cities	Planet Football World Cup Cities	Explorations Powered By Dunlop Total Recall	Rough Trades	MegaStructures Akashi Bridge		Best of the Week: Killer Asteroids		Nat Geo Investigates: Air Crash Investigation		Nat'l Geo Investigates: Wreck Of The Sunset Limited	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan ([illegible])						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress in Action		Corporate Basketball League		The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Tinig ng Bayan (Replay)	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Saw (Dubbed In Tagalog)				Oo Na, Sige Na				Hanggang Dito Na Lang				In The Company Of Legends				Sinasamba Kita
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Kaleido Star		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Global Window	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy Ncis		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports			Badminton Thomas and Uber Cup '06 Finals						NBA Jam	2006 NBA Playoffs 1st Round					Boxing: Danger Zone - Mayorga vs. De La Hoya				
Sports Plus				Motoring Today		Rookie Manual	Nuo Turbovision 10	2006 Bad Boy Tour: Phoenix Team (PBA) vs. NBA Legends						Kentucky Derby 2006			Raceworld		Wachovia C'ship Day3
Star Movies		Anatomy			First Knight (4:35 PM)					The Whole Ten Yards (6:50 PM)			Opening Night	Hostage				Tremors II	
Star World		Scrubs	8 Simple Rules/ Arrested Development	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle	The Simpsons	Oprah Winfrey Show		Koffee With Karan		Coupling		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23						Exposed				Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	US Girls	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton [illegible] (10:45PM)		Angel

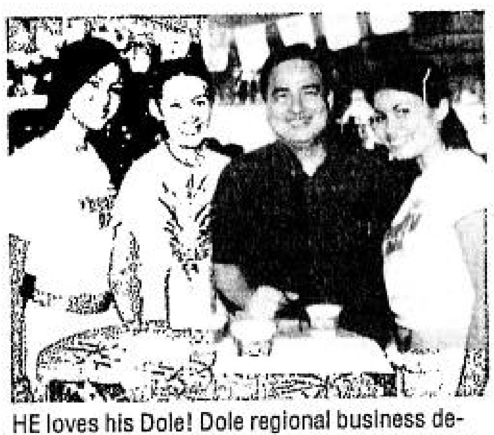
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Hawaiian Luau at The Fort: The Dole Sweet Summer Party

THE ISLAND VIBE OF HAWAII SWEPT THE FORT PLAZA IN BONIFACIO Global City Last April 7 as Dole Packaged Foods ushered in the hot summer season with a grand Hawaiian Luau. As warm "Alohas" and floral leis were given to guests, a hot hula dance number from Escola de Samba de Manila together with the beat of Hairy Dawgs opened the sizzling summer night. The heat was brought up another notch as fire dancers and fire eaters wowed the audience along with Manila's top local bands: Brownman Revival, Session Road, and Tropical Depression who provided a mix of cool, musical rhythms - tropical style.

Sensational street magic by Erik Mana, free henna tattoos, face painting and photo booths were also set up and enjoyed by the jam-packed crowd as they took pleasure of the overflowing Dole Tropical Juice Drinks and delicious snacks made from Dole Pineapple Tidbits and Dole Spaghetti Sauce.

To cap off the Luau, a P10,000 cash prize was given away to the person in the best Hawaiian outfit and the Dole Sweet Tropical Escape Promo was officially launched to the crowd. A grand prize of a trip for two to the ultimate tropical paradise of Honalulu, Hawaii awaits the lucky winner this July. Also at stake are trips for two to Thailand and Cebu. "Mahalo" to Dole for a truly sweet and successful summer Luau!



HE loves his Dole! Dole regional business development director-Asia Roy Cruz enjoying the festivities with the Dole ladies.

WARM 'Alohas' from (from left) Reggie Bautista of 99.5 RT, Mike Chua of Jam 88.3 and the Dole Team, marketing services manager Joy Talag and new products manager Elena Belmonte, plus Lowe Inc account manager Jakeena Malli.

DOLE family. All laidback for more hula! Shown are (from left) trade marketing manager Jinky Ramos and daughter Nikki Ramos, senior product manager Gel Angeles and wife Vero Angeles.

Sponsored caregiver students go to Japan

CONGRATULATIONS!
CHP GRADUATES GOING TO JAPAN
HAPPY TRIP. GAMBATTE KUDASAI!

THE FIRST BATCH OF CAREGIVER STUDENTS FROM CHP (CENTER for Healthcare Professions) is now in Japan. Through the auspices of the International Care Aid Organization (Icao), a non-profit Japanese organization with its local counterpart Philippine International Care Aid Organization (Picao), seven caregiver graduates of CHP, a leading healthcare training institution with several branches nationwide, have been selected and recently been granted visas by the Japanese embassy in order to further pursue Japanese studies in Tokyo.

This is a breakthrough development for CHP caregiver graduates and caregiver course aspirants in the light of the much-anticipated opening of the Japanese market to Filipino healthcare workers through the RP-Japan Free Trade Agreement within the next few years.

The Picao through Icao, has a network of over 100 hospitals and nursing homes in Japan, and is currently negotiating to add more. Since early 2005, this organization had been laying down the foundations for its programs, one of which is the selection of partner training and educational institutions that could produce the quality of caregivers and other healthcare workers that its members would demand. CHP (Center for Healthcare Professions), with its strong reputation for quality training and its own network of training and education centers all over the country, was chosen to be Icao's foremost and preferred training and education partner.

Picao selects from interested CHP graduates those who are qualified to pursue further studies in Japan. Once selected, the graduates' travel and schooling expenses as well as living allowances are sponsored by Icao's member healthcare institutions. After passing the required level of Japanese language proficiency, the caregivers then train and work in these hospitals or nursing homes, receiving salaries of around P100,000 per month. After a few years and after passing the caregiver licensure exam in Japan, the caregiver can then receive as much as P200,000 in monthly salary and they are free to work in the healthcare institutions that they please.

"We are very excited about this development, especially because CHP has always wanted to provide the value-added opportunities for its students. As of now, as far as we know, we are probably the first and only healthcare training and education center that has this kind of opportunity for its students", claims Dr. Carlo Ynion, president and CEO of CHP.

For his part, Masahiro Hachiya, managing director of Icao said, "It is the primary duty of Icao to provide high quality caregivers to its member institutions as well as its duty to provide quality work environment and decent support to the caregivers. We trust that with our partnership with CHP, we will realize these objectives."

In the mean time, selection for the succeeding batches of caregiver students to be sponsored in Japan is on-going at CHP. Interested parties may call 781-9634, 869-9883, (0915)659-4457 or (0917)897-9883. It is projected that about over 100 will be needed within the next 12 months and the projection will reach thousands in the next few years.

MotoLounge
Ms. Margaux Osmeña was given the Blush V3i
Mrs. Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas was awarded the Arctic V3i
RAZR V3i Look creation by Kakuyasu Uchiide
ARCTIC
VERT
TRILOGY
BLUSH
Mary Ann Tinio, JM Rodriguez and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski
Ms. Marivic Pineda was awarded the Vert V3i
Mr. Rick Yupangco was gifted the Trilogy V3i
Kakuyasu Uchiide
Joey Mead, Ian King, and Chicho Suarez
Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski
Maurice Arcache, Tom Valderama, Carissa Oledan-Coscolluela, Tina Tinio, and Mari Litonjua
Bryan Boy
Stephen Ku and Kat Cruz
Tina Tinio and Mari Litonjua
JR Isaac and Tim Yap
Carissa Oledan-Coscolluela
Hazel Espinosa and Rachel Lobangco
Uchiide creates Shu look

Glitz and Glamour Surround Manila's

Bejeweled Affair

Filipinos love to embellish. From eye-catching accessories to arresting outfits, we take our opportunities to glam up very seriously. So whenever there's an event that presents the chance to put together a stunning ensemble, we embrace it with vigor and vivacity.

Recently, a brilliant collaboration between 3 luxury brands gave Manileños just what they were hoping for. **BEJEWELED**, a glitzy affair hosted by **Motorola, Shu Uemura**, and **Smart Infinity**, was an evening designed to bring out the glamour in all of us. Heralding the launch of Motorola's hot and sexy new MotoRAZR V3i handset, and Shu Uemura's adorable faux eyelashes, the event asked guests to come in their most dazzling attire, and Manila's elite did not disappoint.

The guests came decked out in couture that would challenge Hollywood's finest, and were delighted to be witness to a stunning display of artistry and beauty. Haute joaillier **Carissa Oledan-Coscolluela** designed one-of-a-kind gemstone appliqués for 4 Shu Uemura lashes and 4 Motorola Moto RAZR V3is. These creations are unique in the entire world, and were proudly fashioned solely for the Philippines. Spectacular combinations of diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires adorned these coveted items, which were to be awarded to those guests who best personified the qualities of each jewel.

Shu Uemura's international chief make-up artist **Kakuyasu Uchiide** was also present to give a live demonstration of his world-renowned skill, interpreting the theme of the evening, Bejeweled. Uchiide created two gorgeous looks, inspired by Shu Uemura's allure and the MotoRAZR V3i's sleek and cutting-edge design. The results reflected the ethos of each brand, and were dramatically enhanced by the application of Shu Uemura's faux lashes. It was truly a spectacle to behold.

But the sparkling affair was not over yet. The culmination of the night came upon the announcement of the 8 winners, each gifted with a jewel-encrusted Shu Uemura faux eyelash set or MotoRAZR V3i. Ms. Marivic Pineda was awarded the Vert V3i, as Ms. Savanna Lumen was bestowed the Vert lashes. Ms. Margaux Osmeña was given the Blush V3i, and Ms. Michiko Tachibana was presented with the Blush eyelash set. Mr. Rick Yupangco was gifted the Trilogy V3i, while Ms. Kelly Misa was bequeathed the Indigo Ice faux lashes. And while Mrs. Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas was awarded the Artic V3i, Ms. Hazel Espinosa took home the Artic Eye lash set.

The event was truly one that took everyone's breath away. From the shine and sparkle of beautifully embellished phones and lashes, to the splendor of watching awe-inspiring looks come to life; Bejeweled was an evening that satisfied Manila's innate desire to get glammed up and gorgeous! Only Motorola, Shu Uemura, and Smart Infinity could stage such a one of a kind event.

Nestlé Club members enjoy free recipes, household tips and more

KNOWN PREVIOUSLY AS THE NESTLÉ Homemakers Club, the Nestlé Club is a community, composed mostly of mothers, who enjoy the benefits of receiving regular communications from Nestlé Philippines on various homemaking topics such as culinary tips, household management and family rearing. Nestlé Club members also get invited to exclusive Nestlé events such as the monthly cooking and lifestyle demos at the Julius Maggi Kitchen located inside the Nestlé Center in Makati.

Membership to the Nestlé Club is free and because Nestlé offers a wide variety of products and services and caters to consumers of all ages, everyone - even single men and women - are all welcome to join.

Existing members and interested individuals are also invited to spread the word about the perks of being a member of the Nestlé Club by inviting their friends, relatives and neighbors whom they think will benefit from being part of the group. Special tokens of appreciation await those who will be able to refer new members.

To join the Nestlé Club, simply call the Nestlé Consumer Services hotline at 898-0061 or send a fax to 897-0987. You can also write at P.O. Box 1163 Makati Central Post Office, 1251 Metro Manila, Philippines, send an e-mail to nestleclub@ph.nestle.com or visit the Nestlé Club website at www.nestlerecipes.com.ph.